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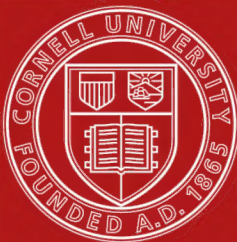
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Lilley B. Caswell







ATHOL

MASSACHUSETTS,

PAST AND PRESENT

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BY LILLEY B. CASWELL.

---

ILLUSTRATED.

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"IT IS A NOBLE FACULTY OF OUR NATURE WHICH ENABLES US TO CONNECT OUR THOUGHTS, OUR SYMPATHIES, AND OUR HAPPINESS WITH WHAT IS DISTANT IN PLACE OR TIME; AND LOOKING BEFORE AND AFTER, TO HOLD COMMUNION AT ONCE WITH OUR ANCESTORS AND OUR POSTERITY."

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.  
ATHOL, MASS.

1899.

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PRESS OF  
THE ATHOL TRANSCRIPT CO.,  
ATHOL, MASS.

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## PREFACE.

When Athol Past and Present was first conceived it was designed to be a Gift Book of two hundred pages or more, but after the work had been commenced and a portion of it was printed, the author purchased all the interest that Mr. W. A. Emerson, its originator, had in the work, and its plan was materially changed until it has reached proportions never thought of at first, with upwards of four hundred and fifty pages, exclusive of the portraits, which number about one hundred pages more.

The author has performed all of the work, not only of gathering the material and writing the history, but has also solicited all of the portraits and sold the books, during the time that he could get while not engaged in his regular profession and other business, and most of this has been done in the few months of the winter season of each year for the last nine or ten years. Those who have never written or assisted in writing a historical work are not aware of the vast amount of labor involved. The fields from which the material of the following chapters have been garnered are the town and church records, old muster rolls in the state archives at the State House, family records and manuscripts and printed volumes wherever found. The files of the Athol Transcript and Worcester West Chronicle have been freely consulted as well as those of the Barre Gazette and Greenfield Gazette and Courier, and we have also availed ourselves of the valuable information contained in the centennial discourse of the Rev. S. F. Clarke, the well prepared work of "Athol in Suppressing the Great Rebellion," and the history of Athol by George W. Horr in Jewett's history of Worcester County.

We have also received valuable assistance from the Fitchburg Public Library, and from Edmund Barton, librarian of the American-Antiquarian Society at Worcester, and are indebted to the publishers of Picturesque Worcester North for the unique little poem on "Margery Morton" by Mrs. Clare H. Burleigh, which we have incorporated in our sketch of the Morton Family. The author is also largely indebted to the assistance of George W. Horr, Esq., and Herbert L. Hapgood, who have enabled him to carry out his plan for a more complete history than was at first contemplated. To these and all others who have in any way contributed to the advancement of the work, and have thus enabled us to present to the people of Athol the first published history of the town, we would tender our grateful acknowledgements.

The first five chapters of the work were printed during the year 1893, and the succeeding ten chapters in 1896, and consequently the events of the departments treated in those chapters and the sketches of individuals there appearing, do not bring them up to the present date.

LILLEY B. CASWELL







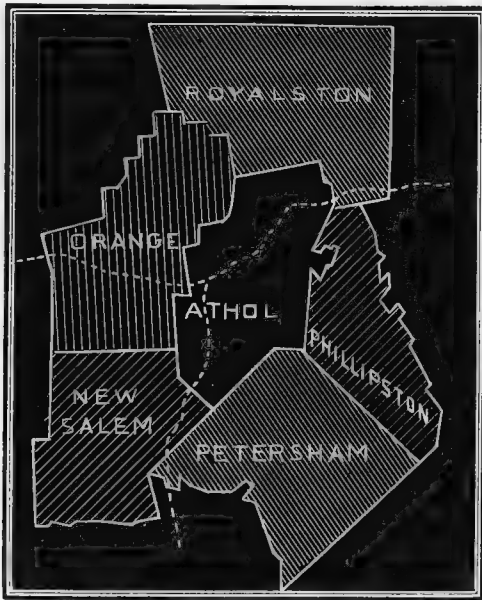
ATHOL FROM THE LEDGES.

## CHAPTER I.

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### DESCRIPTIVE.

“Whatever strengthens our local attachments is favorable both to individual and national character. Show me a man who cares no more for one place than another, and I will show you in that same person one who loves nothing but himself.”



ATHOL is situated in the north-western part of Worcester County, on the Hoo-sac Tunnel line of railroad, 82 miles from Boston, and is connected with Springfield, from which it is 48 miles distant, by a branch of the Boston & Albany Railroad, formerly known as the

Springfield, Athol & Northeastern.

The township, as originally laid out and surveyed in October and November, 1732, consisted of a territory six miles square, but from time to time portions of the original

territory have been annexed to other towns, and set off in the formation of surrounding towns.

Portions of Athol were annexed to Royalston February 26, 1799, and March 7, 1803; a part of Athol was taken to form Gerry in 1786, and a portion of the northwest corner was set off to form Orange. There has also been several additions to the town, a part of Gerry being annexed February 26, 1806; a part of Orange February 7, 1816, and parts of New Salem February 5, 1830, and March 16, 1837; the boundaries now present a very irregular outline, especially on the Phillipston line. The town is bounded on the north by Orange and Royalston; on the east by Royalston and Phillipston; on the southeast by Petersham, and west by New Salem and Orange. It now contains 19,000 acres. The southeast corner, as at first surveyed, was south of the meeting-house now standing in Phillipston; the northeast corner was northeast of South Royalston meeting-house; the northwest corner was a few rods south of North Orange meeting-house, and the southwest corner probably remains unchanged.

The surface is very uneven, hills abounding in almost every part of the town, but rising to the greatest height in the northern and eastern sections. Here, Millers River, after entering the town a short distance from South Royalston, flows for several miles through a narrow valley among the hills, forming some of the wildest and grandest scenery in this portion of the State, until just below the village it expands into fertile meadows, which with their emerald hues in Summer form a beautiful setting for the village which lies along the valley, and stretches up the sloping hillsides until it merges in the "Highlands," and

the "Street," the home of the first settlers of the town; indeed, beautiful for situation is Athol, the Queen of North-western Worcester.

Millers River, known by the Indians as the Pequog, like many of our New England rivers and mountains, was robbed of its name, and given one which has no special significance, except that unfortunately for the generations coming after him, a man by the name of Miller was drowned in the waters of this river while attempting to cross it, and thus gave his name to the stream. The most important tributary is Tully, which coming from the north unites with Millers River where the meadows expand northwest of the village. This stream, according to tradition, derived its name from an Indian's dog, which in following a deer, drove the animal over the meadows into these waters, and while attempting to seize his prey, was struck by the deer and held under the water until poor Tully was drowned.

This has been the generally accepted theory until recent investigations tend to show that this is not probable, as Tully has been found to be a good old English family name, instead of an Indian name.

As there were persons by the name of Tully in Massachusetts and other New England States it seems more likely that the brook was named after some of these early settlers, who in some way became interested in this section, perhaps some surveyor, as has been suggested by those who have investigated the matter.

Another stream entering Millers River, which is of more importance to the town, is "Mill Brook," that has its source among the hills in the eastern part of the town and the edge of Phillipston, and comes rushing down, making a

descent of several hundred feet in the course of two or three miles, and affords numerous sites for mills and factories, and upon which are located some of the most flourishing manufacturing establishments of the town, while many other privileges of equal value are yet undeveloped.

This stream was known by the name of "Mill Brook," as early as 1737. In regard to the origin of its name, Rev. Mr. Clarke, in his Centennial address, says: "Whether it was so called from the circumstance that a mill had been previously built on it, or because it afforded numerous sites for mills, or from some other cause, I have been unable to determine."

But aside from the business connected with this brook, it possesses attractions for the scenery connected with it; the waters of this stream and its tributaries form what is now known as Lake Ellis, a beautiful sheet of water, dotted with islands, upon some of which are located tasty Summer cottages. Before reaching the Lower Village the brook, in a series of cascades and falls, flows along a rocky bed, above which forest trees rise, forming most romantic and picturesque spots.

The largest sheet of water is *South West Pond*, situated in the westerly part of the town, while Silver Lake, secluded among the hills, only a few rods from the village, is a perfect gem, bordered on the east by the beautiful cemetery bearing its name, and on the south and west by "Lake Park," which, ere long, will be covered with fine residences, and is destined to become a favorite rural resort. Near by was the home of Jason Babcock, whose name these waters formerly bore, and who was taken prisoner by the Indians and carried to Canada; the newly-laid streets



of this section bear old Indian names and those of the early settlers.

The principal hills are Chestnut Hill in the north, Round Top, Ward's and Pierce's in the east, from which extensive and wide-sweeping views of the country for miles around can be obtained, with villages dotting the hilltops; below, seeming almost at your feet, winds the river, and by its side curves the iron track over which is daily being transported the passengers and



traffic of a continent; looking to the west, stretching away in the dim distance, can be discerned the peaks of the Green Mountain range of southern Vermont and Berkshire, while to the north, rising in clear, bold, outline, Monadnock's rocky summit seems to be within hailing distance. To the west, across the intervening valley, is "West Hill," one of the locations of the early settlers, with its "Sentinel Elm," a landmark seen from every direction. High Knob, south of the Centre, is another eminence from which an enchanting view of a deep valley and the western hills beyond is obtained.

To the lover of beautiful scenery, pleasant and attractive drives stretch out on every side. Would you like a wild mountain road, now on the breezy hilltop, anon dipping into deep gorges, and traversing rocky hillsides, travel over "Bear's Den Road," as it winds over and among the

hills of the northeastern section of the town; another romantic drive is the "Gulf Road," connecting the Bear's Den Road with Chestnut Hill Road.

If meadow and river scenery is desired, most charming bits of these can be found on the Orange and South Athol roads.

Athol is not distinguished as a farming town, yet there are good farms in various sections of the town that yield fair returns for the labor expended on them, and the farmers of Athol have been among its most substantial and reliable citizens. According to the State census of 1885, the agricultural property was valued at \$647,319, and the agricultural products amounted to \$143,653, of which \$43,-252 was the value of dairy products.

But it is as a manufacturing town that Athol is most distinguished, and few towns of its size possess such a variety of manufacturing industries as the people of this busy and thriving community are engaged in. Among the products turned out from the factories and shops are shoes, cotton and woolen goods, silk, doors, sash and blinds, pine furniture, piano cases, billiard tables, rattan chairs and baby carriages, packing boxes, paper boxes, wallets, machinery of various kinds, fine mechanical tools, matches, building material, soapstone articles, etc. The State census of 1885 gave 114 manufacturing establishments, turning out products to the value of \$1,328,948, which at the present time has been largely increased by new industries coming into town, and by additions to those already established. With all these varied industries, there is little danger of a general depression of business. The town has had a healthy growth, both in population and business.





**FITCHBURG R. R. DEPOT, BUILT IN 1873.**  
(Damaged by Fire, July, 1892.)



**FITCHBURG R. R. DEPOT, REBUILT IN 1893.**

The first census of which we have any record was in 1776, when the population was 848, and the first census enumerator was Hiram Newhall, the town records of 1777 stating that it was voted to allow his account for numbering the people. The population had increased but little up to 1800, when the number was 993; the various census returns since that time are as follows: 1810, 1,041; 1820, 1,211; 1830, 1,325; 1840, 1,591; 1850, 2,034; 1855, 2,395; 1860, 2,604; 1865, 2,814; 1870, 3,517; 1875, 4,134; 1880, 4,307; 1885, 4,758; 1890, 6,319. The per cent. of gain from 1880 to 1890 was 46.

The growth of the town dates from the building of the Vermont & Massachusetts Railroad, which was completed as far as Athol in December, 1847, the cars commencing to run to this town on the last Monday of that month, when the event was duly celebrated by a large gathering of the people. Since the completion of the Hoosac Tunnel the railroad facilities have wonderfully increased, until now seven passenger trains a day, each way, pass over the Fitchburg road, while another important factor in the railroad communication of the town is the branch of the Boston & Albany, which was constructed in 1871 as the Athol & Enfield Railroad, and in which the town took nearly \$100,000 in stock, two passenger trains, each way, pass over this road daily, between Athol and Springfield. The railroad station is an elegant structure, built in 1873, and is an ornament to the town.

The valuation of the town, as returned by the Assessors for 1891, was \$3,156,287. Real estate, \$2,473,000; personal estate, \$683,287; polls, 1820; dwelling-houses, 1123.\* The taxes assessed amounted to \$69,895.83, and the

rate was \$21 per thousand. The growth for the last four or five years has been rapid, more than \$600,000 having been spent in the erection of buildings during the past three years, among which are the new Bank Block of the Millers River National Bank, Webb's new Main Street Block, the Commercial House, three new school buildings, including a fine High School building, Lucien Lord's Academy of Music. and C. F. Richardsons Block.

The natural and acquired advantages of Athol are many; with abundant water-power furnished by Millers River and Mill Brook, good streets and roads, more miles of sidewalk than any town of its size in Western Massachusetts, a good system of water-works, streets lighted by electric lights, a good public library and schools, and surrounded by beautiful scenery, it is fast being filled up with beautiful homes.

## CHAPTER II.

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“Within a lone, sequestered glen,  
All desolate and wild,  
The haunt of beasts and savage men,  
Here roamed the forest child.”

### ANCIENT PEQUOIG.

The valley of the Pequoig seems to have been among the last portions of Eastern and Central Massachusetts to be settled; the country to the east and south, and the Connecticut Valley on the west, had contained for many years flourishing settlements, but along this valley and on these hills the white man had scarcely penetrated. From the eastern headwaters of Millers River in Ashburnham, down the valley, until the Connecticut was reached, there were no settlements before 1735.

This was the country of the Nipnets, or Nipmucks, whose territory extended over nearly the whole of Worcester County, and an old map makes the Nipmuck region also extend beyond the Connecticut, on the west, and northward into New Hampshire. According to Eliot, Nipmuck, or Nipnet, was a “great country lying between Connecticut and the Massachusetts, called Nipnet, where there be many Indians dispersed.” These were the Indians out of whom the Christian settlements were gathered, of whom Eliot was the missionary and apostle. One branch or faction of

the tribe, whose home or headquarters was around Wickaboag Pond, in West Brookfield, was called the Quabogs. To the east of the Quabogs lay the possessions of the Nipnets, or Nipmucks. The Nashaways lived north of the Nipnets, and are sometimes called the Wachusetts, from their strongholds in the mountain of that name in Princeton.

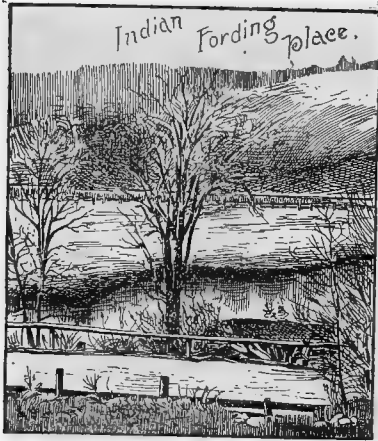
Another tribe was the Squakheags, who occupied the territory now included in Northfield, Vernon and Hinsdale, and the Millers River Valley. It has been customary with most writers to class all these tribes, under the general name of Nipnets.

These natives had many places of temporary sojourn, as the rich valleys for planting, and by the falls of the rivers and shores of ponds for fishing. The meadows of Athol formed one of the favorite corn-planting places of the Indians, while the forest-covered hills around, which abounded with wild game, were their hunting-grounds. This was also upon one of the most frequented Indian trails from southern New England to Canada, and there were two Indian crossings of the Pequog within the limits of this town, one a little above Lewis' Bridge, and the other not far from the house of the late James Lamb.

Squakheag, now Northfield, was one of the gathering places during King Phillip's War, and during that strife bands of the dusky warriors traversed this valley. During this war the Indians had gathered at their Menameset camps, which were located in what is now New Braintree and Barre. Major Thomas Savage was sent with a force of troops to break up this gathering. Upon learning of the near approach of the English the Indians left Menameset, and pushed on northward, heading for Paquayag.



This band comprised the Narragansetts, the Nipmucks and the Grafton Indians, a miscellaneous crowd, numbering, in all, about 2,000 souls. The English pursued, but the Indians, by a feigned attack, drew them off on the wrong trail, and reached Millers River, which they crossed, probably at the crossing near the James Lamb place. Mrs. Rowlandson, who was a



prisoner with the Indians, gives an interesting account of the flight and the crossing of the river. She says: "They went as if they had gone for their lives, for some considerable way, and then they made a stop, and chose out some of their stoutest men, and sent them back to hold the English army in play whilst the rest escaped; and then, like Jehu, they marched on furiously, with their old and young; some carried their old, decrepit mothers, some carried one and some another. Four of them carried a great Indian upon a bier, but going through a thick wood with him, they were hindered, and could make no haste; whereupon they took him upon their backs, and carried him, one at a time, till we came to *Pacquag* River. Upon a Friday, a little after noon, we came to this river. They quickly fell to cutting dry trees, to make rafts to carry them over the river, and soon my turn came to go over. A certain number got over the river that night, but it was the night after the Sabbath before all the company got over."

When the English came up to the river, which was in the forenoon of Monday, they saw on the other side the smoke of the wigwams, which the retreating Indians had set fire to, but the stream was swollen by the Spring floods, and they did not attempt to cross.

The Massachusetts Council were deeply chagrined at the signal failure of this expedition, and in a letter to Major Savage, who had made his headquarters at Hadley, said: "Leaving Captain Turner in Captain Poole's place, with the rest of the army we expressly command you to draw homeward, and endeavor in your return to visit the enemy about Pachquake (Paquayag), *and be careful not to be deceived* by their lapwing stratagems, by drawing you off from your nest to follow some men."

Early in May the Indians that had gathered at Squakheag separated into four parties, One remained at Squakheag for planting and fishing; one went to Pacomptuck Meadows to plant corn, and one to Paquayag, now Athol, for the same purpose.

Nearly sixty years after King Phillip's War, a vote is passed, by both Houses of the General Court, in July, 1732, "that there be four towns opened of the contents of six miles square each;" of these the first one named was to be at Paquoag, on Millers River. This was ordered to be surveyed in October, or November, of that year, and that there be sixty-three house lots laid out, one for the first settled minister, one for the ministry, one for the school, and one for each of the sixty settlers who shall settle thereon in his own person, or by one of his children. Among the conditions that the settlers were to comply with, was, that each settler actually live on his land within

three years from his admission ; build an house on his land, of eighteen feet square and seven feet stud, at the least, and, within the same time, do sufficiently fence in and till, or fit for mowing, eight acres of land. The settlers in each town were also required to build a suitable meeting-house, and to settle a learned orthodox minister, within the space of five years from the admission of the settlers. In case the settler failed to perform these conditions he was to pay a forfeit of twenty pounds.

In the Proprietors' Records is found the following : "The following is a List of the Names of the men admitted by the Honorable William Dudley, Chairman of the Committee and others, the Great and General Court's Committee, to draw House Lotts in the Township of Pequoiag on Miller's River, on the 26 of June 1734 at Concord, as Settlers of said Pequoiag."

The names of the settlers given are as follows : Edward Goddard, Daniel Epps, Jr., Daniel Epps, Sr., Ebenezer Goddard, Zechariah Field, Nehemiah Wright, Richard Wheeler, Richard Morton, Samuel Morton, Ephraim Smith, Nathan Waite, Charles Dulharty, Gad Waite, Joseph Lord, Benoni Twichel, John Wallis, Samuel Willard, John Smeed, William Chandler, Jonathan Marble, William Higgens, James Kenney, Abner Lee, Abraham Nutt, John Headley, Isaac Fisk, Daniel Fisk, Thomas Hapgood, Richard Ward, Samuel Tenney, John Wood, Benj. Townsend, Jonathan Morton, Joseph Smith, William Oliver, Moses Dickinson, Joshua Dickinson, James Kellogg, Richard Crouch, Ezekiel Wallingford, James Jones, John Grout, Daniel Adams, John Cutting, Samuel Kendall, Jonathan Page, John Longley, Joseph Brown, John Child, Nathaniel Graves, George

Danforth, James Fay, Captain Joseph Bowman, Francis Bowman, Stephen Fay, Israel Hamond, Benjamin Bancroft, Joseph Harrington, James Holden.

The next year after the drawing of the house lots, on the 17th of September, 1735, there arrived in the township five of these proprietors—Richard Morton, Ephraim Smith, Samuel Morton, John Smeed and Joseph Lord; they had traversed the wilderness from Hatfield and Sunderland, on the Connecticut, and had come to make their homes on these unimproved hills, and commence the first civilized settlement in old Pequoiag.

These five pioneer settlers must have been men of resolute spirit and bravery; here they were on these hills with their families, miles from any settlement, surrounded by the virgin forest, through which roamed wild beasts, and the savage Indian.

All the means for their sustenance, except what they could procure from the wild game of the forests, must, for months, be transported from the Connecticut Valley; their labors in clearing up their lands for cultivation must have been arduous, and they must have had a constant anxiety for the protection of their families and themselves against the prowling and wily Indian.

It is probable that they located their dwellings and spent the first Winter together, about a mile south of the Highlands, on what is now called the Street; here they built their first log huts, and here during the first Winter after their arrival, according to tradition, were born three sons, the first white natives of old Pequoiag—these were Abraham Morton, son of Richard Morton, Abner Morton, son of Samuel Morton, and Thomas Lord, son of Joseph

Lord. The first white female born in town was Margery Morton, who was born in 1738; the baby shoes worn by her are still treasured as relics in the Kelton family, by Mrs. Electa Kelton, who is a descendant of the Morton family.

In the Spring of 1736 this little company of settlers were joined by others, among whom were Aaron Smith, Samuel Dexter, Robert Young, Noah Morton, Nathaniel Graves, Eleazer Graves, Robert Marble, William Oliver and his three brothers—John, James and Robert. Other settlements were soon commenced in different parts of the town—"West Hill," in the northwest part of the town, and Lyon's Hill, in the east part, being the first localities cleared. Chestnut Hill was first settled about the year 1761, and the first settler was John Haven.

This was a frontier township, and especially exposed to the depredations of the Indians; while the breaking out of the French and Indian War, soon after the arrival of the first settlers, together with the fact that this was a favorite haunt of the Indians, made it necessary to exercise the greatest care and precaution against attacks from the wily foes around them, and the settlers were not only obliged to carry firearms with them while about their work, but also to build forts, for the mutual safety and protection of the settlement. Three of these forts are said to have been built, the first and principal one, being on the "Street," in close proximity to where the first dwellings were erected; another was located on what was called "West Hill," not far from where the old "Sentinel Elm" now stands, as if a monument to perpetuate the memory of the deeds and scenes of those trying days of Ancient Pequog. The third

place of refuge is said to have occupied the spot where the Pequoig House, in the Lower Village, now stands.

Notwithstanding the perilous situation, it is not known that more than one person was ever killed by the Indians in this town, and that was Mr. Ezekiel Wallingford, who was living at the time in the fort on "West Hill;" it is stated that, supposing he heard bears in his cornfield, one evening, he went out to watch, but soon discovered that he had been deceived by the Indians, who had imitated the noise of bears, and were surrounding him; he immediately started to regain the fort, which was about a hundred yards away, but was soon stopped by a musket-ball, and his life ended by the tomahawk. This was in August, 1746, and the next Spring, in April or May, Mr. Jason Babcock, while looking for his cows on the meadows of Tully Brook, was fired upon by the Indians, wounded, taken prisoner, and carried to Canada; in the course of a few months he was redeemed, and returned to his home, near what is now Silver Lake, where he lived for many years.

Rev. Mr. Clarke, in his Centennial discourse, gives an account of a little Athol girl, Mary Smeed, six years old, who, with her father, mother and brothers, was taken prisoner at "Fort Massachusetts," on the Hoosac River, where they had gone for safety; they were carried through the wilderness to Canada, and, after a captivity of nearly two years, those of the party who survived were ransomed, and returned to their former home, at Pequoia.

Several Athol men were in the army during the French and Indian War, among whom were Samuel Graves and Adonijah Ball; also Abraham Morton, the first white child

born in Athol, who was engaged in the expedition against Canada under Colonel Rogers, and of whom tradition tells the following: That after Rogers' defeat, the party to which Morton belonged, on their return home, being out of provisions, came near starving, and the strong probability is that the party drew lots to determine who of their number should yield his body to save the rest from famishing. It is supposed that the lot fell on Mr. Morton, for he was never heard of afterwards.

One of the first settlers, Mr. Josiah Holmes, lost his life in consequence of sickness brought on by exposure and fatigue, "experienced while guarding and defending the garrison in which the little flock was obliged to resort for shelter and safety."

Such, briefly told, are some of the perils and privations passed through by the courageous and sturdy pioneers and their families, who planted on these hills the first homes of Ancient Pequig.

## CHAPTER III.

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“What’s in a Name?”

### NAMING THE TOWN.



THE FOUNDING of a New England town, and investing it with all the rights and privileges possessed by a town, was an event of great importance.

Every day brought its labors and duties that must be attended to; roads must be made, schools established and school-houses built, the young men trained to arms against the savages, the bears, wolves and wild cats; the preaching of the gospel must be maintained and meeting houses erected, and for all these taxes must be laid and collected.

All of these duties the first settlers of Old Pequoig performed, and laid for us the foundations of all that we enjoy to-day. For more than a quarter of a century this little settlement had grown and prospered under the Proprietors’ control, when a movement was made for the incorporation of “Pequoig on Miller’s River” into a town.



What name should be conferred upon this new town when admitted to the sisterhood of towns in the Commonwealth? It seems somewhat singular that in all the State there are so few of our towns that bear their old and romantic Indian names, but in most instances were given the names of towns in Old England, or those of the rulers or prominent men in the colony.

It would seem from the record of a warrant for a proprietors' meeting that appears in the second volume of the Proprietors' Records, that a different name than the one it now bears was first selected for the new town, but why and by whom we have not been able to determine. The record reads as follows:

[Seal] "Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, to Nathaniel Graves, of Paxton, in the county of Worcester, New England, Gentleman:

GREETING—

You are hereby required to notify the Proprietors of said Paxton, lately known by the name of Pequog, lying on Miller's River so called, in the County of Worcester, that they assemble and meet at the Publick Meeting House in said township on the second Wednesday of March next, for the transaction of their usual business, &c."

This warrant was dated February 22, 1762, just twelve days before the town was incorporated with an entirely different name. Why the name of Paxton, which certainly was expected by the clerk of the proprietors to be the one selected, did not appear in the act of incorporation is not known.

We may consider it a fortunate circumstance that the town escaped bearing the name of Paxton, for the people

of another Worcester County town upon which it was bestowed a few years after became so disgusted with the character of the man from whom they received the name that they petitioned the Legislature to change the name, but for some reason the petition was not granted. Charles Paxton, the man referred to, was one of the Commissioners of the Customs at Boston. He was remarkable for finished politeness and courtesy of manners, but is said to have been an intriguing politician and a despicable sycophant. On one occasion he was exhibited between the figures of the devil and the pope, in proper figure, with this label: "*every man's humble servant, but no man's friend.*"

He made himself so obnoxious to the people of Boston because of his issuing search warrants to discover supposed smuggled goods, and was so insolent and tyrannical, that he became an object of such hatred that he was hung in effigy upon Liberty Tree, and was driven into Castle William.

On the evacuation of Boston he accompanied the British army to Halifax, and subsequently went to England, where he died in 1782.

The corporate act creating the new town is recorded in chapter XX of "Acts and laws passed by the Great and General Court or Assembly of His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England," and reads as follows:—

"*Anno, Regni, Regis, Georgii III, Secundo, 1762.*"

#### CHAPTER XX.

"An act for erecting the new Plantation called Paygauge, in the County of Worcester, into a Town by the Name of Athol.

Whereas, it hath been represented to this Court that the inhabitants of the Plantation of Paygauge in the County of Worcester, labor under great Difficulties by reason of their not being incorporated into a Town, and are desirous of being so incorporated;

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council and House of Representatives that the said Plantation be and hereby is erected into a Town by the Name of Athol, bounded as follows, viz., Northerly on the Plantations of Royashire and Mount Grace, Westerly on Ervingshire and New Salem, Southerly on Petersham and the Plantation called Number-Six, and Easterly on said Number-Six; and that the inhabitants thereof be and hereby are invested with all the Powers, Privileges and Immunities that the Inhabitants of the Towns within this Province are by Law vested with. And be it further enacted, that John Murray, Esquire, be and hereby is directed and empowered to issue his Warrant, directed to some of the principal Inhabitants within said Town, requiring them to warn the Inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in Town Affairs, to assemble at some suitable Time and Place in said Town to choose such Officers as are necessary to manage the Affairs of said Town: Provided nevertheless the Inhabitants of said Town shall pay their proportionable part of such County and Province Charges as are already assessed in like manner as tho' this Act had not been made."

It is established beyond a reasonable doubt that Athol received its name from John Murray, Esq., whose name appears in the charter of incorporation as the one directed and empowered to issue the warrant calling the first town meeting, and who was also the moderator of that meeting. He was largely interested in lands in the township, owning several hundred acres before the incorporation of the town, and acquiring nearly as much more thereafter; several of the old deeds of his Athol property are now in possession of his descendants in New Brunswick.

That he was probably the most distinguished man among the proprietors is evident from the fact that the title of Esquire is attached to his name as it appears upon the records, which title is bestowed upon no other one of the proprietors. It seems reasonable also that he should desire to bestow his family name upon one of the New England townships in which he was so largely interested, and as Rutland, the town where he made his residence, had

already been named, he would naturally look to the one in which he was next most largely interested, which was old Pequig.

The fact that the beautiful and romantic scenery of the hills of the new town, which is said to resemble Blair-Athol, his ancestral home, might recall to his mind that (Pleasant Land) among the Scottish hills, and thus be an additional motive for the naming of the town.

Athol, in Scotland, is a district of 450 square miles, situated among the hills of Perthshire on the southern slope of the Grampian hills, and is intersected by many narrow glens, down which flow the rapid tributaries of the Tay. It is chiefly composed of gneiss and quartz rocks, with beds of primary limestone. It was once one of the best hunting districts in Scotland, and the Athol deer forest is said to contain 100,000 acres and 10,000 head of deer, of which 100 are killed annually. The larch trees surrounding Blair Castle, the seat of the Duke of Athol, are said to be remarkable for their enormous size, and for the fact of their being among the first planted in Scotland. In the picturesque pass of Killiecrankie in this district, 17 miles northwest of Dunkeld, Claverhouse fell in 1689, though victorious over the troops of King William III.

In this connection a sketch of the man who gave Athol her name will be of interest.

John Murray of Rutland, Mass., was the youngest son of the Duke of Athol in Scotland. Becoming displeased with his family, he left his country and went to America before the Revolution. It is said that by his enterprise and good fortune he became the wealthiest man of the town. He was the principal man in his section of the



COL. JOHN MURRAY.



country, and represented Rutland in the General Court for twenty years, and was one of the country gentlemen or colonial noblemen who lived upon their estates in a style that has long since passed away.

He was a colonel in the militia, and in 1774 was appointed a Mandamus Councillor, but was not sworn into office. When the Revolution broke out he remained loyal to his King, and was proscribed and his property seized. He abandoned his house on the night of the 25th of August, 1774, and with a friend, Mr. Hazen, escaped in the darkness of the night to the woods, and only their wives knew their hiding place. These watched their opportunities, and carried them bread and meat. Sometimes the ladies would be so closely watched that they could not elude the revolutionists, and once it was three days that they could take them no food. Finally they escaped to Boston, and in 1776 Col. Murray, with his family of six persons, accompanied the royal army to Halifax. In 1778 he was proscribed and banished; and in 1779 his extensive estates in Rutland, Athol and Lenox, valued at 23,367 pounds, 17 shillings and 9 pence, were confiscated, with the exception of one farm for his whig son, Alexander. After the Revolution Col. Murray became a resident of St. John, New Brunswick, and built a house in Prince William street. He was allowed a pension of £200 per annum by the British Government. The descendants of Col. Murray, in New Brunswick, have several relics of the olden time of much interest; among these are articles of silver plate of a by gone fashion, books of accounts, business memoranda, muster rolls, or list of officers of the regiment which he commanded, deeds of his estates, &c.

Of the latter, there are no less than twenty-two of his lands in Rutland, and several of property in Athol. One of the deeds is stamped, but it bears date some years previous to the passage of the odious stamp-act. The manner in which he kept his books and papers, shows that he was a careful, calculating and exact man in his transactions. In person he was about six feet three inches high, and well proportioned, A picture of Col. Murray, by Copley, is in the possession of Hon. J. Douglas Hazen of St. John's, New Brunswick. In this picture he is represented as sitting, and in the full dress of a gentleman of the day; and his person is shown to the knees. There is a hole in this portrait, and the tradition in the family is, that a party who sought the Colonel at his house in Rutland after his flight, vexed because he had eluded them, vowed they would leave their mark behind them; and accordingly pierced the canvas with a bayonet.

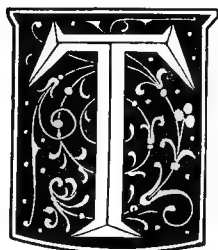


## CHAPTER IV.

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### TOWN GOVERNMENT.

“No other practicable human institution has been devised or conceived to secure the just ends of local government, so felicitous as the town meeting.”



THE FIRST Town Meeting of Athol was held March 29, 1762. The call for the meeting read as follows :

“WORCESTER, SS. To George Cutting of Athol, in the County of Worcester, and one of the principal inhabitants of said Town: Whereas I, the Subscriber, am Impowered by act of the Great and General Court, to call a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Athol, to choose Town Officers, etc. These are therefore in his majestie’s name to Require you forthwith to warn and Notifie the said Inhabitants of Athol, qualified to vote in Town Affairs, that they meet at the Meeting House in said Town of Athol, on Monday, the 29 of this Instant March, at one of the clock in the afternoon, then and there to Choose a Moderator, Selectmen, Town Clerk, Assessors, Town Treasurer, Wardens, Constables, Surveyors of Highways, Tythingmen, Fence Viewers, Sealers of Weights and Measures, Field Drivers, Hog Reaves, and all other ordinary Town Officers, as Towns Choose in the month of March, annually.

Hereof fail not, and make return hereof with your Doings hereon, unto me before said meeting.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Rutland, in said County, this fifteenth day of March, 1762, in the second year of his present Majestie's, Reign, etc." JOHN MURRAY, Jus. Peace.

At this meeting John Murray was chosen moderator and the following town officers were elected :

*Selectmen and Assessors*, William Oliver, Aaron Smith, John Haven ; *Town Treasurer*, Nathan Goddard ; *Wardens*, Robert Young, Nathan Goddard ; *Constable for South Ward*, Richard Morton ; *Constable for North Ward*, Ephraim Smith ; *Surveyors of Highways*, Nathan Goddard, John Oliver, Seth Kendall ; *Tythingmen*, Jesse Kendall and Jotham Death ; *Fence Viewers*, William Biglo, Martin Morton ; *Sealer of Leather*, Jotham Death ; *Sealer of Weights and Measures*, William Oliver ; *Field Drivers*, Joseph Dexter and James Oliver ; *Deer Reeves*, Eleazer Graves and Jason Babcock ; *Hog Reeves*, Silas Marble and Ichabod Dexter ; *Sealer of Boards and Shingles*, Jesse Kendall. No Town Clerk was chosen until the next annual meeting, March 7, 1763, when John Haven was chosen to that office.

The second town meeting was held May 25, 1762, when the first appropriations made by the town of Athol after its incorporation were voted. The following are some of the votes passed at that meeting :

"ART. 2. Voated the Rev. Mr. James Humphrey Fifty-two pounds for the ensuing year, beginning the year when we ware made a Town."

"ART. 3. On the third artecal, voated twenty pounds to repair highways."

"ART 4. On the fourth artecal, voted seven pounds to buy a book for records, and build a pound, and to defray other necessary charges."

"ART. 5. On the fifth artecal, voted Lay out a road from the River to Royalshea line."

"ART. 7. On the seventh artecal, voted that men be allowed three shillings a day for highway work, and one shilling and six pence for two oxen a day, and nine pence a day for a cart and nine pence a day for a plow, and that eight hours be esteemed a day's work."

It is interesting to know who the men have been who have been called upon by their fellow citizens to manage the affairs of the town, and to learn something of their history.

The following is a list of those who have served as Selectmen :

1763—Samuel Morton, Aaron Smith, John Haven.

1764—Aaron Smith, John Haven, Martin Morton, Samuel Morton, Silas Marble.

1765—Wm. Oliver, Aaron Smith, Nathaniel Graves, John Haven Abraham Nutt.

1766—Aaron Smith, Wm. Oliver, John Haven, Abraham Nutt, Seth Twichell.

1767—Wm. Oliver, Aaron Smith, John Haven.

1768—Nathaniel Graves, Wm. Oliver, Aaron Smith, Jesse Kendall, Ichabod Dexter.

1769—Nathaniel Graves, John Haven, Lieut. Wm. Oliver.

1770—Aaron Smith, John Haven, Jesse Kendall.

1771—John Haven, Jesse Kendall, Nathaniel Babbitt.

1772—John Haven, James Oliver, Geo. Kelton.

1773—Aaron Smith, John Haven, Jesse Kendall.

1774—Dea. Aaron Smith, James Stratton, Jr., James Oliver.

1775—Aaron Smith, James Stratton, Jr., Hiram Newhall.

1776—Aaron Smith, James Stratton, Hiram Newhall.

1777—Geo. Kelton, Hiram Newhall, Abner Graves.

1778—Geo. Kelton, James Stratton, Josiah Goddard.

1779—Josiah Goddard, Abner Graves, Hiram Newhall.

1780—Josiah Goddard, Hiram Newhall, Abner Graves.

1781—Josiah Goddard, Hiram Newhall, John Foster.

1782—Josiah Goddard, Caleb Smith, Daniel Ellenwood.

1783—Daniel Ellenwood, Thomas Lord, Simon Goddard, Josiah Goddard, John Foster. ✓

- 1784—Geo. Kelton, Josiah Goddard, Abner Graves.  
 1785—Geo. Kelton, Josiah Goddard, Abner Graves.  
 1786—Josiah Goddard, Abner Graves, Caleb Smith.  
 1787—Josiah Goddard, Abner Graves, Caleb Smith.  
 1788—Josiah Goddard, Aaron Oliver, Abner Graves.  
 1789—Josiah Goddard, Abner Graves, Aaron Oliver.  
 1790—Josiah Goddard, Joseph Pierce, Eleazer Graves, Jr.  
 1791—Josiah Goddard, Joseph Pierce, Caleb Smith.  
 1792—Josiah Goddard, Thomas Stratton, Aaron Oliver.  
 1793—Thomas Stratton, Eleazer Graves, Jr., Caleb Smith.  
 1794—Josiah Goddard, Thomas Stratton, Eleazer Graves, Jr.  
 1795—Josiah Goddard, Thomas Stratton, Eleazer Graves, Jr.  
 1796—Josiah Goddard, Thomas Stratton, Eleazer Graves, Jr.  
 1797—Samuel Young, Joseph Pierce, Aaron Oliver.  
 1798—Josiah Goddard, John Humphrey, Aaron Smith, Jr.  
 1799—Josiah Goddard, John Humphrey, Aaron Smith.  
 1800—Eleazer Graves, Samuel Young, Joshua Ballard.  
 1801—Eleazer Graves, Joshua Ballard, Wm. Young.  
 1802—Eleazer Graves, Aaron Smith, Elijah Goddard.  
 1803—John Humphrey, Eleazer Graves, Elijah Goddard.  
 1804—John Humphrey, Eleazer Graves, Samuel Young.  
 1805—Eleazer Graves, Samuel Young, James Humphrey.  
 1806—Eleazer Graves, Wm. Young, James Humphrey.  
 1807—Eleazer Graves, James Humphrey, James Oliver.  
 1808—James Oliver, Elijah Goddard, Joseph Pierce.  
 1809—Eleazer Graves, Elijah Goddard, Joel Morton.  
 1810—Eleazer Graves, Joseph Proctor, Elijah Goddard.  
 1811—Eleazer Graves, Elijah Goddard, James Oliver.  
 1812—Joshua Ballard, James Humphrey, James Oliver.  
 1813—James Humphrey, James Oliver, Joseph Pierce.  
 1814—James Humphrey, James Oliver, Joseph Pierce.  
 1815—James Humphrey, James Oliver, Theodore Jones.  
 1816—Eleazer Graves, Joseph Pierce, Zachariah Field.  
 1817—Eleazer Graves, Zachariah Field, Ezra Fish.  
 1818—Lieut. Eleazer Graves, Ezra Fish, Eliphalet Thorpe.  
 1819—Lieut. Eleazer Graves, Eliphalet Thorpe, Capt. James Oliver.  
 1820—Eliphalet Thorpe, Joseph Proctor, Capt. James Oliver.  
 1821—Eliphalet Thorpe, Joseph Proctor, Capt. James Oliver.  
 1822—Eliphalet Thorpe, James Oliver, Abner Graves, Jr.

- 1823—Eliphalet Thorpe, James Oliver, Abner Graves, Jr.  
1824—Eliphalet Thorpe, James Oliver, Abner Graves, Jr.  
1825—Eliphalet Thorpe, James Oliver, Abner Graves, Jr.  
1826—James Oliver, Capt. Abner Graves, Col. Nathan Nickerson.  
1827—Col. Nathan Nickerson, James Young, Daniel Ellenwood.  
1828—James Young, James Oliver, Esq., Dr. Ebenezer Chaplin.  
1829—James Young, Samuel Sweetzer, Jr., Josiah Fay.  
1830—James Young, Samuel Sweetzer, Jr., Josiah Fay.  
1831—James Young, Eliphalet Thorpe, Josiah Fay.  
1832—James Young, Eliphalet Thorpe, Josiah Fay.  
1833—James Young, Eliphalet Thorpe, Josiah Fay.  
1834—James Young, Eliphalet Thorpe, Noah Stockwell.  
1835—James Young, Gideon Sibley, Noah Stockwell.  
1836—James Young, Gideon Sibley, Noah Stockwell.  
1837—Benj. Estabrook, Amasa Lincoln, Nehemiah Ward.  
1838—Benj. Estabrook, Amasa Lincoln, Nehemiah Ward.  
1839—Benj. Estabrook, Stillman Knowlton, Nehemiah Ward.  
1840—Theodore Jones, Elias Bassett, Joseph Stockwell.  
1841—J. W. Humphreys, Elias Bassett, Alexander Gray.  
1842—J. W. Humphreys, Henry Fish, Alexander Gray.  
1843—John H. Partridge, Alexander Gray, John Kendall.  
1844—Eliphalet Thorpe, Benj. Estabrook, Elias Bassett.  
1845—Elias Bassett, Theodore Jones, Samuel Sweetzer.  
1846—Theodore Jones, Elias Bassett, Samuel Newhall.  
1847—Samuel Newhall, Benj. Estabrook, Nehemiah Ward.  
1848—Calvin Kelton, Nathaniel Richardson, Wm. D. Lee, Jr.  
1849—Calvin Kelton, Nathaniel Richardson, Wm. D. Lee, Jr.  
1850—Calvin Kelton, Nathaniel Richardson, Benj. Estabrook.  
1851—Benjamin Estabrook, Isaac Stevens, Josiah Haven.  
1852—Benjamin Estabrook, Isaac Stevens, Josiah Haven.  
1853—Samuel Newhall, Josiah Haven, Nathaniel Richardson.  
1854—Nathaniel Richardson, Josiah Haven, Laban Morse.  
1855—Josiah Haven, George Farr, Calvin Kelton.  
1856—Calvin Kelton, James Lamb, A. G. Stratton.  
1857—Calvin Kelton, A. G. Stratton, Benjamin Estabrook.  
1858—Nathaniel Richardson, Calvin Kelton, John Kendall.  
1859—Nathaniel Richardson, Calvin Kelton, John Kendall.  
1860—Calvin Kelton, A. G. Stratton, Jona. Drury.  
1861—Calvin Kelton, Amos L. Cheney, John Kendall.  
1862—Amos L. Cheney, John Kendall, A. D. Horr.

- 1863—Calvin Kelton, A. D. Horr, Amos L. Cheney.
- 1864—Calvin Kelton, Josiah Haven, G. Lord, Jr.
- 1865—Calvin Kelton, J. W. Hunt, J. M. Rice.
- 1866—Calvin Kelton, J. W. Hunt, J. M. Rice.
- 1867—Calvin Kelton, J. W. Hunt, J. M. Rice.
- 1868—Calvin Kelton, N. Richardson, John Kendall.
- 1869—Benjamin Estabrook, N. Richardson, John Kendall.
- 1870—Benjamin Estabrook, A. G. Stratton, Josiah Haven.
- 1871—Edwin Ellis, A. G. Stratton, Josiah Haven.
- 1872—Edwin Ellis, A. G. Stratton, Josiah Haven.
- 1873—Solon W. Lee, A. G. Stratton, Josiah Haven.
- 1874—A. G. Stratton, Josiah Haven. E. J. Gage.
- 1875—A. G. Stratton, W. H. Amsden, G. Southard.
- 1876—W. H. Amsden, Wm. W. Fish, G. Southard.
- 1877—Wm. W. Fish, G. Southard, W. D. Smith.
- 1878—Wm. W. Fish, Gilbert Southard, W. D. Smith.
- 1879—Wm. W. Fish, G. Southard, W. D. Smith.
- 1880—G. Southard, Geo. W. Woodward, Josiah Haven.
- 1881—G. Southard, O. F. Hunt, O. T. Brooks.
- 1882—G. Southard, Henry Gray, Josiah Haven.
- 1883—G. Southard, C. F. Richardson, A. J. Nye.
- 1884—C. F. Richardson, W. D. Smith, Henry Gray.
- 1885—W. D. Smith, Henry Gray, J. W. Sloan.
- 1886—W. D. Smith, Henry Gray, J. M. King.
- 1887—C. F. Richardson, Ira Y. Kendall, A. J. Nye.
- 1888—C. F. Richardson, Ira Y. Kendall, Henry Gray.
- 1889—Gardiner Lord, Henry Gray, Orrin F. Hunt.
- 1890—Gardiner Lord, Henry Gray, James Cotton.
- 1891—Geo. W. Bishop, James Cotton, Edwin W. Ellis.
- 1892—C. F. Richardson, Edwin W. Ellis, James Cotton.
- 1893—W. D. Smith, Geo. W. Bishop, Herbert L. Hapgood.

Wilson D. Smith, chairman of the board of Selectmen for 1893, was born in New Salem, Jan. 11, 1845. His parents removed to Athol when he was five years of age, and this town has since been his home; he attended the public schools of Athol and continued his studies at Wesleyan Academy, Wilbraham, Mass., and Eastman's Business College at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. After leaving school

he engaged in business with George Farr in the manufacture of matches on South Street, in which he continued three years, and in 1866 went into the wool and wool waste business, being in company with G. P. Sloan for about a year since which time he has carried on the business alone; for about a year he run the cotton mill, and sold out that business to Jones Brothers.

In 1877 he was elected on the board of Selectmen, assessors and overseers of the poor and held that position for three years; he was elected to the same position in 1884 and again served three years, and in 1892 was elected on the board of assessors of which he was the Chairman. In 1893 he was elected Selectman, Assessor, Overseer of the Poor and Road Commissioner. He has been actively interested in a number of the business enterprises of the town, having been one of the directors of the Athol Machine Co. from its organization until 1892, and has been in almost every stock company that has been organized in town. He is a member of Star Lodge of Masons, Union Royal Arch Chapter and Athol Commandery of Knights Templars, and was a charter member of the Poquaig Club. He was married in 1867 to Lucretia Wheelock, daughter of Dea. E. M. Smith of Athol, and has had two children, only, one of whom, Ray, is now living. Mrs. Smith died in 1891.

Geo. W. Bishop was born in West Burke, Vt., Oct. 4th, 1849. He graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy at the age of 17, and then entered the employ of the Connecticut & Passumpsic River Railroad in the train service and maintenance of way. After four years of service with this com-

pany he went to work for the old Vermont & Massachusetts Railroad in 1870. He had charge of a section until 1874 when he was appointed roadmaster of the Fitchburg Railroad which position he still holds, having charge of the road from Fitchburg to Greenfield, Worcester to Winchendon and the Ashburnham and Turners Falls branches. He holds a high rank among railroad men, having been president of the New England Roadmasters' Association, and also a delegate to the conventions of the Roadmasters of America Association at Denver, Col., in 1889, and Detroit Mich., in 1890. He is prominent in the Masonic fraternity, having become a member of Star Lodge of Athol in 1872; is a member of Union Royal Arch Chapter, Athol Commandery of Knights Templars, Titus Strong Council of Greenfield and the Mystic Shrine. He has been master of Star Lodge, Commander of Athol Commandery and District Deputy Grand Master of the 12th Masonic District, and in December, 1893, was elected Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. He is also a member of Tully Lodge of Odd Fellows, and various other organizations.

Believing in the future growth of Athol he has, during the last few years, invested largely in building operations, He was elected a member of the board of Selectmen in 1891, and was the Chairman that year, and was elected again in 1893. He married Annie B. King Sept. 16, 1873.

Charles A. Carruth was born in Petersham, Dec. 13, 1853. He attended the common schools of his native town, and Highland Institute, and immediately after finishing his studies at the Institute was called upon to take charge of





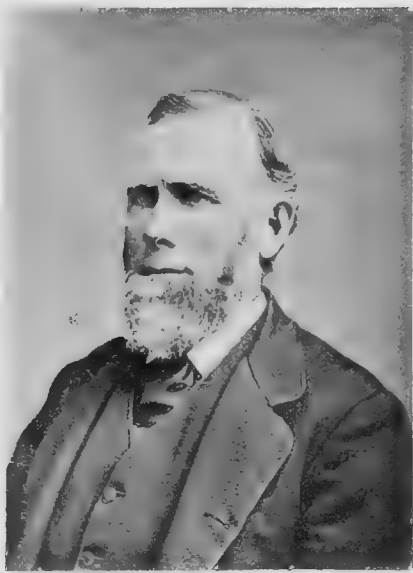
WILSON D. SMITH.



GEORGE W. BISHOP.



CHARLES A. CARRUTH.



HENRY GRAY.



a difficultt school in the west part of Petersham, which he conducted successfully.

He commenced his mercantile career in 1870 when he came to Athol and entered the employ of Parmenter & Tower as clerk, where he remained four and a half years, when in company with F. S. Parmenter he purchased the dry goods and clothing business of J. S. Parmenter, the firm being known as Parmenter & Carruth; this partnership was continued for two years when the business was sold to Holbrook & Twichell in 1876 and Mr. Carruth entered the store of Walter Thorpe as clerk in his dry goods and clothing business where he remained for five months, and in February 1877 bought out the clothing business of Wm. Bixby in Masonic Block, where he continued until the building was destroyed by fire in 1890; after occupying a temporary store for some time he moved into his present store in Starr Hall Block.

He married Lizzie I. Bassett Feb. 15, 1877. She died March 24th, 1879, and he was married a second time Jan. 23, 1880 to Ida E. Davis of Orange.

In 1891 he was elected on the board of assessors and again for the year 1892, and re-elected for 1893. He is a prominent society man, being a member of the several Masonic and Odd Fellow organizations and of Corinthian Lodge Knights of Pythias, and was one of the organizers of Poquaig Club of which he has been one of the Executive Committee since its formation.

Henry Gray was born in Athol, Jan, 16, 1830, a son of Alexander Gray. He attended the common schools and worked on the farm until about 23 years of age when he

came to the Centre to live, working at the carpenter business for several years, and later was employed in the shop of W. H. Amsden at Kennebunk. For quite a number of years he has been engaged in farming and the milk business, and has frequently been called upon to serve the town in official positions. He has served as Selectman seven years and has also been assessor, overseer of the poor and road surveyor, and was a member of boards of Assessors and Overseers of the Poor for 1892 and 1893. Was married March 10, 1859, to Lucinda M. Peirce of New Salem; they have one daughter, the wife of Dr. Z. R. Luce of Boston. Mr. Gray has been a member of Athol Lodge of Masons for about twenty years, and was the first Master of Athol Grange.

#### TOWN CLERKS.

It is interesting to know who have transcribed the records of the Town's doings through the years of its history and to learn something of their lives. The first Town Clerk was John Haven, who was chosen at a town meeting held March 7th, 1763, and served continuously until 1774, and during the years 1776 and 1777.

Those holding this office since that time, have been, William Bigelow 1774 and 1775, John Foster from 1778 to 1782, Hiram Newhall 1782 to 1788, Thomas Stratton 1788 to 1797, John Humphrey 1797 to 1818, Theodore Jones 1818 to 1829, Wm. H. Williams 1829 to 1833, Benjamin Estabrook 1833 to 1840, John W. Humphrey 1840 to 1845, Joseph E. Jones 1845, Isaac Stevens 1846 to 1850, James I. Goulding 1850 to 1863, T. H. Goodspeed 1863 to 1873, Edwin Ellis 1873, J. S. Parmenter 1874 to 1881.

John D. Holbrook the present Town Clerk was appointed to that office by the Selectmen on the death of J. S. Parmenter in the fall of 1881, and was elected by the town at the next annual meeting in March, 1882, and has held the office continuously since that time.

Mr. Holbrook was born Oct. 6th, 1843, at Townsend, Vt.; he attended the public schools of his native town and Leland & Gray Seminary. The war of the Rebellion breaking out when he was a student, he enlisted from school when about 18 years of age, in 1862 in the 16th Vermont Regiment in which he served nine months, and on the expiration of his term of service enlisted in the 26th New York Cavalry for three years or during the war. On his return from the war he taught school in Townsend during one winter, and then went into the country store of Winslow & Piper of that town as a clerk; after five years' service in this position he went to Fayetteville in the town of Newfane, and carried on a general country store for two years, from which place he came to Athol to reside in the Spring of 1872, the firm of Holbrook, Twitchell & Co. having been established in Athol the previous year with a store in the Music Hall building at the Centre. The firm continued to carry on business at that place, doing a dry goods and clothing business, until the burning of Music Hall in April, 1876, and in September of that year removed to the Lower Village and occupied the store where he now carries on business in Parmenter's block. In 1878 Mr. Twitchell retired from the firm which then became J. D. Holbrook & Co. In August, 1877, he married Miss Lydia A. R. Smith of Barre. Mr. Holbrook represented

this district in the Legislature of 1879. He is a member of the Congregational Church, Hubbard V. Smith Post, G. A. R., and Acme Lodge Knights of Honor.

#### TOWN TREASURERS.

The first Town Treasurer was Nathan Goddard who was chosen at the first town meeting in March, 1762, and held the office during that year and 1764.

Others who have held that position are: William Oliver 1763, Abraham Nutt 1765 to 1775, Hiram Newhall 1775 to 1779, Daniel Ellenwood 1779 to 1787, Joshua Morton 1787 to 1793, James Humphrey, Jr. 1793 to 1797, Thomas Stratton 1797 and 1798, Joseph Peirce 1799 to 1803, Joseph Crosby 1803 to 1806, Joel Morton 1806 to 1821, Henry Lee 1821 to 1840, Theodore Jones 1840 to 1850, Benjamin Estabrook 1850 to 1855, Merrick E. Ainsworth 1855 and 1856, Chas. C. Bassett 1857 and 1858, Abner G. Stratton 1859 and 1860, S. E. Twitchell 1861 to 1865, Nathaniel Richardson 1865 to 1875, Thomas H. Goodspeed 1875 to 1879, Enoch T. Lewis 1879, Samuel Lee 1880 to the present time.

Samuel Lee, who has been the efficient Town Treasurer since 1880, belongs to the well known Lee family, and was born in Athol, Feb. 10, 1834, on what was known as the old Morton farm, on the Orange road, now occupied by J. W. Sawyer. He is a son of Henry Lee, who was also a popular town treasurer, having held that position the longest of any one in the history of the town. He attended the common schools of the town, and before completing his school life was for a time clerk in a store at Royalston, attended the select schools that were held at the Town

Hall, and was also a clerk in the store of James I. Goulding when about 15 years old. In 1855 he went into business with the late W. D. Lee, Jr., in a general country store, the firm being known as Lee & Co. In 1885 he sold out his interest in the business and in company with Charles Horr built the Summit House; he was also in company with T. H. Goodspeed for about four years, and was appointed as postmaster by President Buchanan in 1858, serving until June 25, 1862. For the next six years he was largely engaged in the real estate business, and in 1868 in company with Geo. W. Stevens was engaged in trade where H. M. Humphrey's drug store now is. In 1873 he went into partnership with J. F. Humphrey in the general hardware business and in 1888 bought out Mr. Humphrey's interest and has continued the business since, dealing in hardware, building materials, sash, blinds, etc. He has been clerk of the old first parish of Athol since 1874, was assessor for three years, 1869, '70 and '71, and has been tax collector five years. He has always taken an active interest in politics, having been chairman of the Democratic Town Committee for several years, and president of the Young Men's Democratic Club, and has several times been a candidate of the party for representative to the Legislature. Was married May 1st, 1861 to Hattie L. Nourse of Athol, and has one son, Fred H. Lee.

The office of Assessors has varied, sometimes having been combined with the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor, and at other times a separate board. For the last number of years, the Assessors have been elected as a separate board.

The collection of taxes for most of the time in the past has been let out to the lowest bidder, and occasionally the office of Collector and Treasurer has been combined, as in 1860 when at the March meeting A. G. Stratton was elected as Collector on the condition that he act as Collector and Treasurer for the sum of \$35, the same as paid him the year before. In 1793 we find it recorded that "the Collector was struck off to John Jacobs at six Pounds," in 1799 "Hired Calvin Kendall for \$18.25 to be Collector of Taxes." In 1803 it was struck off to Samuel Morse at \$16.75, and in 1806 and 1807 the work of collecting must have been considered either as an honor or a profitable occupation as Samuel Morse offered to serve the Town as Collector of Taxes without compensation during those years, and was elected, while the position was still more eagerly sought after in 1812, when James Oliver offered to give One Cent for the Collector's office; the town accepted the offer and he gave bonds and was sworn. Samuel Lee has been the Collector for several years, and receives a salary for the same of \$250.

*The Town's Poor.* Athol like other towns in the early days took care of her paupers by disposing of them to the lowest bidder, and early in the present century we find numerous records like the following: At a town meeting held May 2d, 1803, "voted to give Francis Green Ten Dollars annually for keeping Hannah Marble (one of the Town's poor) during her natural life." In 1811 "the support of the Paupers was disposed of to the lowest bidder in the following manner: Hannah Marble struck off to John Crosby at fifteen dollars for one years Board and Clothing.



Violet, a Negro, struck off to Abner Stratton at seventy-five cents per week for the term of one year." This Violet was for many years the slave of the first minister Rev. Mr. Humphrey. She was sold by Mr. Humphrey to Mr. Thomas Stratton, and finally after the death of Mr. Stratton and the manumission of slaves in this Commonwealth, she was supported by the town until she died at a very advanced age. One of the last records of this kind is found in 1828 when it was "voted that the Provision for the Paupers for the year ensuing be set up by the Overseers of the Poor, and sold at auction to the lowest bidder. Voted that a fortnight from this day be the time for the selling of the Poor." A more humane method is soon inaugurated for at the annual meeting held in 1829, it was "voted to purchase a Farm to use for the support of the paupers and that a committee be chosen to effect that purchase, provided they can do it to their own satisfaction as regards price and payment, and the board of Selectmen was chosen thier committee." At a town meeting held in May of the same year, "Voted to accept the following Report"—The subscribers a Committee chosen by the inhabitants of the Town of Athol at their last meeting to purchase a farm for the use of their paupers, have attended to the duties of their appointment and submit the following report, viz: That on the Twenty-third April last James Young the chairman of your Committee bid off at auction, for the inhabitants of the Town, the farm lately owned by Adonijah Ball, Jr., deceased, for the sum of \$1856; that the Administrator considered the said Young as purchaser, etc.' This farm has been used as the Poor Farm to the present time.

There used to be a statue of the province that existed before the Revolution and was continued for some time after, which provided that if persons were legally warned to depart from a town, they could not gain a legal residence there, and so the town would not be chargeable for their support in case they came to want. When any objectionable persons came into town, the Selectmen and Constables were diligent in serving this notice upon them. It was called a "warning out." In the town records we find a copy of one of these documents that reads as follows:

*Worcester, ss.*—To John Jacobs Constable of the Town of Athol in said County—Greeting. You are in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts directed to warn and give notice unto Jerusha Bradish of Athol in the County of Worcester, Spinner, who has lately come into this Town for the purpose of abiding therein not having obtained the Town's consent therefor, that she depart the Limits thereof within fifteen days. And of this precept with your doings thereon you are to make return unto the office of the Clerk of the Town within twenty days next coming, that such further proceedings may be had in the premises as the Law directs. Given under our Hands and Seals at Athol aforesaid this Second day of January. A. D. 1794.

CALEB SMITH	}	Selectmen of Athol.
THOMAS STRATTON		
ELEAZER GRAVES JR.		

Athol, January the 10th, 1794.

In obedience to the above Warrant I have this day fully executed the same as the Law directs.

JOHN JACOBS, Constable."

*Roads and Bridges.*—The building and repairing of roads and bridges was a source of heavy expense to the inhabitants of Athol in the early days of its history, as it was to all our New England towns, and always has been in later times. In 1733 the Provincial Government had caused a road to be laid out and opened for travel from Lancaster to the valley of the Connecticut, near Deerfield, through Hubbardston, Templeton, Petersham, etc., to its westerly terminus at Sunderland, which gave it the name of the "Sunderland Road." This road was undoubtedly used by the early settlers of Athol in their journeys to and from the towns of the Connecticut Valley. In 1740 a road was marked and cleared from Templeton to Pequoig, and in 1754 a county road was laid from Lancaster to Poquaig through Narragansett No. 6 (Templeton.) In 1753 the town of Warwick chose a committee to lay out and clear a road to Pequeage (Athol.) Prior to 1761, when the first gristmill was erected in Warwick, the inhabitants of that town were compelled to go to Northfield and Athol with their grain, and not only to go on foot, but to carry home on their backs their grain, and even hay, which they were obliged to buy for their cattle. At the second town meeting after the incorporation of the town, held in May 1762, one of the articles called for the building of a road to Royalshea (Royalston) line.

For many years there were no bridges over the rivers, and it was necessary either to ford the streams or cross on boats or rafts. Among the arrangements made by the proprietors in September 1750, for the ordination of Rev. James Humphrey as pastor of the first church, we find that Lieutenant Graves, Lieutenant Morton, Mr. Nutt,

Mr. Samuel Morton and Mr. Aaron Smith were appointed "a Committee to make a Boat so big as to carry two Horses at once." The building and rebuilding of bridges over Millers River and Tully was a heavy expense, and among the ways suggested to lighten the burden was that of a lottery, it having been voted by the town in September 1784, "to petition the General Court for leave to make a lottery to build the Bridges over Tully and Millers River and repair the Causeway and chose Hiram Newhall, Josiah Goddard and William Bigelow a Committee for that purpose." Among the necessary and indispensable articles for the building of a bridge in those days was an abundance of rum, sugar and powder, as the following bill which appears on the town records will show :

The Town of Athol, Dr.

To the Subscribers for rebuilding the bridge over Millers River in the year A. D., 1793.

	£	s.	d.
For Timber,	9	1	0
To Framing,	11	6	0
To erecting Abutment,	13	15	7
To Rum, Sugar and Powder,	5	11	5
Samuel Young, Benjamin Blanchard, William Young, Eleazer Graves, Jr.,	} Committee for Rebuilding said Bridge.		

Some degree of relief was afforded the towns during the first half of the present century by the turnpike system in which companies were formed and incorporated with the design of making better roads than the towns could afford to make, and toll was collected by the company from those who travelled on them. This part of the state obtained relief in that way from the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike Corporation, which was incorporated about 1800 by the

**Legislature.** A section of the act of incorporation states the object to be "for the purpose of laying out and making a Turnpike road from Capt. Elisha Hunts in Northfield aforesaid, through Warwick, Orange, Athol, Gerry, Templeton and Gardner to Westminster meeting house, from thence to Jonas Kendall's Tavern in Leominster, and also from Calvin Munn's Tavern in Greenfield through Montague and up Millers River through unincorporated land so as to intersect the road aforesaid in Athol and making the same in such place or places as the said corporation shall choose and keeping the same in repair, which road shall not be less than four rods wide and the path to be travelled in not less than eighteen feet wide in any place." The location of the toll gates is described as follows: "One of which gates shall be near where David Mayo keeps a tavern in Warwick, one other near where Samuel Sweetzer keeps a tavern in Athol; one other to be near the line between Gardner and Westminster. One other near where Jonas Kendall keeps a tavern in Leominster, the other one gate where the Corporation may judge most convenient on the road from Greenfield to Athol aforesaid." In 1806 what was known as the Monson Turnpike was laid out, which extended from Monson in the southern part of the state to Richmond, N. H., and intersected the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike. Athol was largely interested in these roads, and several of its prominent citizens held the office of clerk of the board of directors, Joseph Proctor, Clough R. Miles and Benjamin Estabrook having held that position. In 1832 the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike Corporation gave up its franchise and the road was laid out as a county road.

*The Currency.*—Great difficulty was experienced during the Revolutionary War with the currency. The paper money had become a legal tender, and it had depreciated to an alarming extent, the prices of everything being high and unstable while hard money was extremely difficult to obtain and grain became a legal tender for the payment of taxes and other debts. The greatest trouble was experienced from 1779 to about 1785, as is evidenced by the various votes passed by Athol during that time. At a town meeting held in 1783 the Constables were impowered to receive rye for town rates, and it was voted that Benjamin Sanders collect twenty bushels of rye to be delivered to Nathaniel Graves, Jr. Also chose Eliphalet Moore and William Bigelow to receive grain and pay whom the town owes, grain. In July 1780 “Voated to raise Fifty Seven Thousand five pounds to pay the town debt.” “Voted to give sixty pound for a blanket, and thirty-six pound for a pair of shoes, and thirty pound for a shirt, and twenty pound for a pair of stockings.” At a town meeting held in 1779 it was “voated to give as a Bounty to any man in this Town that shall kill a grown wolf thirty pound, and for a young one fifteen pound, said wolves to be killed within ten miles from this meeting house in Athol.” The next year this bounty was increased to three hundred dollars.

## CHAPTER V.

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### CHURCHES.

"Great is the Lord our God,  
And let his praise be great;  
He makes his churches His abode,  
His most delightful seat.

These temples of his grace,  
How beautiful they stand!  
The honors of our native place,  
And bulwarks of our land."



IT IS impossible to fix the exact date of the building of the first Meeting House, owing to the loss of the early records of the Proprietors, but from the best information to be obtained, it seems probable that it was not built previous to the year 1741.

An ancient document referred to by Rev. S. F. Clarke in his centennial discourse contains a description of "fifty-eight acres of land" lying on both sides of "Mill Brook," surveyed and laid out by Abner Lee, agreeably to a vote of the Proprietors, "Sept. ye 2d, 1741," "and to ye election and choice of Lt. Samuel Kindle," "on the original Right of Jonathan Marble, No. 30, ye eight acres to Lyee in common for a Buring Place and Meeting house place, if ye Proprietors shall think proper to put them too."

From the reading of this it would be inferred that the lot was not then occupied by a meeting house.

These eight acres referred to lay upon the north bank of Mill Brook, and included what is now known as the Old Indian Burying Ground on the Hapgood road, and the land where the school house recently erected stands; it is believed that the first meeting house was located very near the spot occupied by the school house. Here, in a rough and uncompleted log structure, the fathers of Athol first engaged in public worship. But there are no records to tell by whom religious services were conducted, nor how long they were held in that place. It is reasonable however, to suppose that Dr. Joseph Lord, who was the best educated of the early settlers, officiated as the first preacher. This structure was destroyed by fire in a few years, and there is a tradition that it was burned by the Indians; but later investigations point to the fact that the fire caught from a fire in the woods.

Another house was soon erected on "East Pequoiag Hill," or street, in close proximity to the Fort.

No record gives any exact date of the erection of this building, or of its size or cost.

It is said to have had but one pew, and that originally belonged to Dr. Joseph Lord, the first proprietor's clerk.

Here the few inhabitants of old Pequoiag assembled Sunday after Sunday to engage in worship, and while a portion were worshipping God within, others were obliged, arms in hand, to keep guard outside, lest the worshipers should be surprised by the wily and treacherous Indians.

The first record of any provision made for preaching in the settlement is as follows: "Oct. 18, 1749. Voted



that Mr. Brown be allowed for one day's preaching, five pounds, Old Tenor." It is possible, however, that a regular preacher may have been employed previous to this date as the early records are lost.

Rev. Timothy Brown and Rev. John Mellen are referred to in the records as ministers to whom the Proprietors were indebted, and they probably preached for them in the year 1749, or just previous. Rev. John Mellen was pastor of the first church in Sterling and he is said to have been a man of superior ability, who probably stood at the head of the clergy in the county. His pastorate at the Sterling church extended over a period of 34 years, and after a long controversy regarding the veto power of the clergy, which right he maintained, he was excluded forcibly from the pulpit. But his friends united with him in maintaining separate worship, for about 10 years, either in his own house or in a school house.

On the third Wednesday of May, 1750, the Proprietors "Voted that we choose an Orthodox minister to settle in this Place," and also voted that Mr. James Humfries, our present Preacher, be the Orthodox Minister in this Place." Mr. Humphrey, it appears by the records, had been supplying the pulpit at Pequoiag from the 10th of December, 1749, to the 16th of May, 1750.

The terms of settlement which were to be offered Mr. Humphrey were: "Voted that we give Mr. James Humfries, our present Preacher, the sum of Fifty Pounds lawful money of this Province of the Massachusetts Bay, per Annum, while he continues in the work of the Gospel Ministry, in this Place, and farther, add to that right, a whole share of Land in the Township of Pequoiag laid

out by the General Court for the first Minister of sd. Pequoiag, of which the House Lott on East Pequoiag Hill, on the west side of the High Way, Number Eight in Part, the sum of Sixty-six Pounds, thirteen shillings and four Pence lawful money of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, to be paid, one-half within one Year after the Payment of the first half, if he accepts of the work of the Gospel Ministry in this Place.”

Mr. Humphrey's answer to the committee chosen to see if he would accept the call reads as follows:

“To the Proprietors of the New Township, called Pequoiag, at their Meeting continued by Adjournment from May 16th to August 8th, ensuing”—

“Gentlen. :”

“I received by the Hand of Lieut. Richard Morton a Copy of your Votes passed at your Meeting, on the 16th of May last, respecting my settling among you in the Capacity of a Gospel Minister. And in Answer thereto,—In the first Place, I do heartily thank you for the good will you have expressed to me in your Invitation. After mature Deliberation upon the important affair, I now signify my acceptance of the Salary and Encouragement you have given me to Settle in the Work of the Ministry among you in this Place, in Case the Propriety will make me an addition of Forty Shillings lawful money to your former Encouragement for my Annual Support,—and if it please God in his aldisposing Providence regularly to introduce me into the Pastoral Office over you, I hope by his grace and Spirit I shall be enabled in some good measure to fulfil my ministry. So I remain with hearty regards your Servant in Christ Jesus.”

JAMES HUMFREY.

“Pequoiag, August 8, 1750.”

The terms of Mr. Humphrey were accepted, and a committee was chosen to make arrangements for the ordination, also “to send to a Neighboring Minister or Ministers to assist them in a Fast and in Gathering a Church in this Place.”

The church was formed August 29th 1750, when the pastor elect, and Richard Morton, Nathaniel Graves, Abraham Nutt, Robert Marble, Samuel Morton, Nathan Wait, Eleazer Graves, Ephraim Smith and Aaron Smith affixed their signatures to the solemn church covenant.

The ordination took place Nov. 7th, 1750, and from that time for nearly 25 years Rev. Mr. Humphrey ministered in peace and happiness to his people, until an innovation in the custom of singing brought on a controversy, which finally, after nearly seven years of exciting town and church meetings, led to the severing of the pastoral relation, and the dismissal of Mr. Humphrey Feb. 13, 1782, and nearly resulted in the dismemberment of the town. Indeed, there is but little doubt that the setting off of a portion of Athol to form the town of Orange was effected in consequence of this quarrel and the dismissal of Mr. Humphrey. During his ministry there were 121 members added to the church. Mr. Humphrey continued to reside in town from the time of his dismissal to that of his death, which occurred May 8, 1796, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

The town and church were without a settled minister for more than five years, during which time various attempts were made by both church and town to unite upon a preacher, but all was in vain, until July 25, 1787, when

the right man seems to have been found. The church then voted "unanimously to invite Mr. Joseph Estabrook to take the pastoral care of them in the Lord," and on the 8th of August the town concurred with the church in extending an invitation to Mr. Estabrook.

He was publicly ordained on the 21st of November, 1787, the terms of his settlement being as follows:

The town voted to give him two hundred pounds for his "encouragement to settle with them, and also the use of a pew in the meeting house so long as he should remain the minister of the town." For his "support" or salary they obligated themselves to give him "Seventy-five pounds" in cash, and twenty cords of good fire-wood annually. He soon succeeded in bringing harmony and peace out of discord, and for nearly forty-three years ministered to a united parish and happy people until his death, April 18, 1830.

Through his careful oversight and good judgment the religious controversies of the day that agitated other communities had not crept into his parish, but on his death the question of exchanges between the minister that should be called and ministers of other churches came up, and a division of the church resulted.

After several exciting Town Meetings had been held regarding the hiring of a minister it was finally, at a Town Meeting held Nov. 6, 1830, "Voted unanimously that we give the Rev. Josiah Moore a call to settle as Minister over the First Congregational Church and Society in the Town of Athol, upon the following terms:—

1st. He shall exchange Ministerial labours with all the Congregational Clergymen in the neighborhood, who are of regular standing and who will exchange with him:

2d. Whenever two-thirds of the voters of said society shall have given Mr. Moore three months notice that they wish the connexion between him and the Society dissolved, it shall be dissolved; and whenever Mr. Moore shall have given the Society three months notice that he wishes the connexion dissolved, it shall be dissolved accordingly:

3d. We will pay Mr. Moore as a salary, at the rate of Five Hundred Dollars for each year, which sum shall be paid at the expiration of each year, and if the said connexion be dissolved before the completion of any full year, the salary which shall then remain unpaid, shall be paid at the dissolution of said connexion."

The ordination of Mr. Moore took place Dec. 8, 1830, and he served the church as pastor until August, 1833. He was followed by Rev. Linus H. Shaw, who was ordained Nov. 12, 1834 and dismissed Aug. 29, 1836.

Following Mr. Shaw's dismissal there was no settled minister for nearly 12 years. Among those who supplied the pulpit during this time were Stephen A. Barnard, Rev. Crawford Nightingale and Rev. E. J. Gerry. Of these Rev. Crawford Nightingale became the best known to the people of the town through his marriage into a prominent Athol family. Mr. Nightingale was born in Providence, R. I., Nov. 3, 1816. He was educated in the public schools of that city, and at Brown University, graduating from that institution in 1834. After leaving college he entered the Divinity School at Cambridge, from which he graduated in 1838. He was at Charlemont and Shelburne as pastor for two years, and came to Athol in 1841 and was pastor of the church here for two years and at Chicopee for six or seven years. In 1846 he married Mary Hoyt Williams, daughter of Dr. William H. Williams, a physician and prominent citizen of Athol. Mr. Nightingale was pastor of the church in Athol a second time for a year or more, and was then pastor at Groton for 13 years and at Ayer for 10 years, leaving the

former place on account of his anti-slavery sentiments. He had no settled pastorate after leaving Ayer, and resided in Ashmont, a suburb of Boston, from 1876 until his death, which occurred Aug. 20, 1892, in Providence, where he was crushed to death by a cable grip car on College Hill. During his pastorate in Athol his public spirited and genial ways made him popular, and he was always a welcome visitor in town.

Rev. Samuel F. Clarke was ordained as pastor April 19, 1848, and continued until 1856, having had, next to the pastorates of Rev. Messrs. Humphrey and Estabrook, the longest term of service in the history of the church. He was stirring and active, not only in his church, but in social and town affairs, being for several years a member of the School Committee, and was the first historian of the town, his *Centennial Discourse* delivered at the celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the First Church and Society in Athol, Sept. 9. 1850, being the first attempt to rescue the early history of the town from the oblivion to which it was fast hastening, and preserve it in such a permanent form as to make the people acquainted with it. This discourse has been the basis of all subsequent historical sketches of the early church and town history.

Mr. Clarke was followed by Rev. D. C. O'Daniels, who served 1857-59. Rev. George Bradburn became pastor in 1859.

Of all the ministers who have occupied the pulpits of Athol churches, the one who was the best known to the world at large, and the most distinguished was Rev George Bradburn, who occupied the pulpit of the Unitarian Church for one year, during 1859. and was also a resident

of the town for two years longer, and who for the last twenty years of his life spent a portion of each summer here with his old friends and co-laborers, the Hoyts, He was born in Attleboro, Mass., March 4, 1806, his father James Bradburn, being one of the earliest manufacturers of woolen cloth in New England. He was educated a practical machinist and at the early age of nineteen stood at the head of a large number of employees, but his love of study and desire of usefulness to his race impelled him to leave this business; and after pursuing his studies at Exeter Academy and the Divinity School at Cambridge, he became a Unitarian minister, his first settlement being over a church in Nantucket. While at Nantucket he was elected to the Legislature by the Whigs in 1839, was a Representative from that place for three years, and was considered one of the most remarkable men in the House of Representatives.

He allied himself to the Anti-slavery cause and endowed with rare gifts as a popular speaker, a face and figure of rare dignity and beauty, and a courage that feared no antagonism, he stood among the strong men of the Anti-slavery cause, and became at one time more widely known throughout the Northern States than almost any of the orators of that cause.

He was an intimate associate of Garrison, and had the confidence and friendship of Whittier, Chief Justice Chase, Gerritt Smith, Governor Andrew, and other prominent leaders in that great conflict. He was a delegate to the World's Anti-slavery Convention, held in London in 1840, and took a prominent part in its proceedings.

From 1846 to 1849 he edited the "Pioneer and Herald of Freedom" at Lynn, in 1850 was associated with Elizur Wright on "The Boston Chronotype," and in 1851 removed to Cleveland, Ohio, to become one of the editors of "The True Democrat," a daily paper, afterwards the "The Leader." He resigned this position at the end of two years and entered the lecture field throughout the Western States. He worked through the Fremont political campaign, speaking twenty-six evenings consecutively.

His health failing him, an entire change of climate was ordered by his physician, and he soon came to Athol, where he remained until 1861, when his friend, Salmon P. Chase, offered him his choice of consulship abroad, or an honorable position in the Boston Custom House. He accepted the latter, which position he retained for 14 years, making his home in Melrose. He died July 26, 1880.

Rev. Ira Bailey served from 1861 to 1866, Rev. W. S. Burton 1868-73, Rev. S. R. Priest 1874-76, Rev. E. P. Gibbs 1877—— The pastors since then have been Rev. W. C. Litchfield, Rev. D. H. Rogan. Rev. Caroline R. James supplied the pulpit in 1888 and A. L. Ferry in 1889.

Rev. Herbert Whitney, the last pastor, was born in Hancock, Vt., Nov. 6, 1850. He studied theology at St. Lawrence University, and also took a course in philosophy at Harvard. He has been pastor of churches at Waterloo, Canada; Webster, N. Y.; Ludlow, Vt.; Storm Lake, Iowa and Sherburne, N. Y. He came to Athol in July, 1890, and closed his labors Jan. 29.



1893. Rev. Charles Conklin supplied the pulpit in 1893.

The second meeting house, which was located on the "Street," was used for public worship until 1773.

When it became necessary to build a new meeting house, the town was agitated from centre to circumference regarding the location, and for a year or two Town Meetings were held every few months to determine the spot; votes would be passed and then annulled and made void at the next meeting, until finally, as the best way out of the trouble, it was decided to choose a committee from other towns in the County, and at a meeting held Jan. 16, 1772, "A Committee consisting of Capt. Oliver Witt of Paxton, Capt. Stephen Maynard of Westboro and Col. John Whitcomb of Bolton were chosen to fix a spot for the inhabitants of Athol to sit a meeting house to accommodate the whole town."

The Common was finally decided upon as the place, and here the third meeting house was erected and opened for public worship, on the first Sunday of July, 1773. This was occupied until its destruction by fire, probably by an incendiary, on the night of July 2, 1827.

The present church edifice was built in 1828, at an expense of between five and six thousand dollars, on land donated for the purpose by Mr. Samuel Sweetzer. This building was remodelled and repaired in the fall of 1847; the upper part was finished into a hall and disposed of to the Town, being the present Town Hall. The church below was rededicated, Dec. 8, 1847.

#### THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

As a result of the controversy on the theological doctrines which rent the old First Church after the death of

Rev. Mr. Estabrook, all but eight of the church membership, with two of its deacons, withdrew in October, 1830, and formed the "Evangelical Society of Athol," articles of faith being adopted by the new church, March 25, 1831.

The first meetings were held in the Town House, which stood where now is the yard in front of James M. Lee's stable, on the corner of Common St.

The newly organized church worshipped here until a meeting-house was built in the summer of 1833, which is the present house of worship. The church was dedicated in June of that year, the sermon being preached by Rev. Mr. Winslow of Boston. The land on which the church was built was given by Mr. Frederick Jones of Boston, and the timber was contributed and many days work were put in by individuals. When the building was completed the pews were sold at auction and the money received was used in paying the cost of building. In 1859 the church was enlarged and repaired at a cost of about \$6000, at which time the present tall and stately steeple took the place of the old black belfry that had formerly surmounted the structure. In 1868 a fine pipe organ was put into the singers gallery, taking the place of the violins, bass-violos, trombone, flute and seraphine, that had for many years pealed forth their music for the singers; later the organ was removed to the left of the pulpit in front of the audience, and other changes and improvements have been made about the building.

Rev. George J. Tillotson, who had preached for six weeks in the old First Church, before the call was extended to Rev. Mr. Moore, and before the division, continued to minister to the new church for three months,

when he was invited to become its settled pastor but declined. During his short ministry there was a revival of religion, when about forty were converted. Mr. Tillotson is remembered as a wise, strong and earnest Christian minister. Soon after leaving Athol he was ordained as pastor of the Congregational church of Brooklyn, Conn., which position he held for twenty-seven years. He served other churches in Connecticut, his native state, for eighteen years, when he retired from active service, after a ministry of forty-five years. In 1860, he married for his second wife Mary Wood, a well-known teacher and descendant of the Sweetzer family of Athol.

The first settled minister was Rev. B. B. Beckwith, who was ordained June 8, 1831, and dismissed Nov. 11, 1834. A notable event in his pastorate was a great revival under the labors of Evangelist Foote, which resulted in the conversion of nearly sixty people, and awakened such opposition that it is said a cannon was fired near the church during services, while a stone was thrown through the window in the direction of the pulpit; another event of importance to the society was the erection of the church.

Mr. Beckwith was born in Lyme, Conn., was a graduate of Williams College, and a student of Yale Theological Seminary. His last pastorate was with the First Presbyterian church at Gouverneur, N. Y., where he died July 4, 1870. He was succeeded by Rev. James F. Warner, who served from March 4, 1835, until Dec. 18, 1837.

Mr. Warner is said to have been a man of a quick and excitable temperament, and evidently had mistaken his calling, for after leaving Athol he did not again engage

in the ministry, but went to New York City where he became a teacher of music, and died March 6, 1864.

The next pastor was Rev. R. M. Chipman, whose ministry began Aug- 15, 1839, and ended Dec. 23, 1851, lasting a little over 12 years, and is succeeded in length by only one pastorate in the history of the church. This pastorate was made exciting by the Temperance Reform and Anti-Slavery agitations as well as the Millerite excitement which at this time was sweeping over the country, and in these agitations this church put itself on record on the side of Temperance and human freedom. Mr. Chipman was a native of Salem, Mass., and a graduate of Dartmouth College, his theological studies being pursued at Princeton, N. J., and at the University of New York. He was an energetic pastor and is remembered with esteem by many; he was for seven or eight years a member of the School Committee. After his removal from Athol he served churches in Connecticut and Massachusetts, and was also engaged in historical and genealogical work.

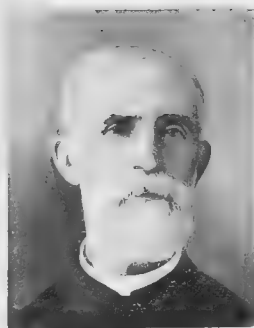
The fourth settled pastor was Rev. John F. Norton, who was installed March 17, 1852, and served for 15 years, his pastorate terminating March 11, 1867, and being the longest of any pastorate of any church in town with the exception of the two first ministers of the old First Church. No minister of Athol during the last half century has probably made a deeper impression upon the people of the town than Mr. Norton, and under his leadership the church enjoyed a season of uninterrupted prosperity with several revival seasons and large gatherings to the church. He was also held in high regard and esteem by the towns people, irrespective of church membership, and was given



REV. C. P. LOMBARD.



REV. E. F. MARTIN.



REV. C. J. SHRIMPTON.



REV. J. F. NORTON.



REV. J. H. HUMPHREY.



REV. H. F. BROWN.



REV. E. S. GOULD.



responsible and honorary positions. He was for many years a member of the School Committee, and served as chairman much of the time. On the breaking out of the Rebellion, he was made chairman of a committee appointed by the town to keep a record of all the town did in support of the government. This resulted at the close of the war in the publication of "Athol in Suppressing the Rebellion," the large part of the work on which was the labor of Mr. Norton.

He was born in Goshen, Conn., Sept. 8, 1809, and was educated at Yale College and East Windsor Theological Seminary. After teaching school for a number of years, he was ordained to the ministry at Milton, Conn., Oct. 23, 1844. He remained there for five years in home missionary work, and previous to coming to Athol was installed as the first pastor of the Porter Evangelical Church of North Bridgewater, Mass. After leaving Athol Mr. Norton served churches at Fitzwilliam, N. H., West Yarmouth, Mass., and Hubbardston. He resided for several years in Natick, Mass., where he died Nov. 3, 1892. He left a widow and one son, Lewis M., a professor in the Institute of Technology, at Boston. His remains were brought to Athol and buried at the Highlands.

Rev. Temple Cutler, the successor of Mr. Norton, was installed March 4, 1868, and served eight years, being dismissed April 19, 1876. These were years of great spiritual growth and numerous additions to the church. It was during this pastorate that a parsonage was purchased by forty individual members and presented to the Society. Mr. Cutler is still regarded with the greatest respect and

affection here. He was born at Lynn, Mass., May 4, 1828, graduated at Marietta, Ohio, in 1857, and studied theology at Andover, Mass. He was ordained at Skowhegan, Maine, Feb. 20, 1861, and preached there seven years before coming to Athol. After leaving Athol, he spent several years in the service of the American Missionary Association, preaching and teaching at Chattanooga, Tenn., and Charleston, S. C. He now lives at Essex, Mass.

Mr. Cutler was followed by Rev. Henry A. Blake, who was ordained Sept. 13, 1876, and closed his labors May 1, 1883. This, also, was a period of prosperity in the church. It was during this pastorate that the 50th anniversary of the organization of the church and Sunday school was observed, and the historical addresses delivered by Mr. Blake on these occasions are valuable additions to the church history of Athol. After leaving Athol Mr. Blake became pastor of a church in Providence, R. I., and is now settled over the church at Webster, Mass.

Rev. H. W. Stebbins, a graduate of Andover Theological Seminary, was settled Sept. 1, 1883, and remained five years, terminating his labors Dec. 31, 1888. He was born in Worcester, Nov. 15, 1857. In his boyhood he went to Montpelier, Vt., where he fitted for college, and entered Dartmouth College, graduating in the class of 1878. He studied another year at that place, after his graduation, and entered Andover Theological Seminary; he was a member of the class of 1882, but as he took an advanced and extra year, did not leave there until 1883, when he came to Athol. While in Athol he married Miss Anna Spear, a well known vocalist and musician, the daughter of Mr. Caleb Spear.



It was during Mr. Stebbins' pastorate, that the memorable church trouble, regarding the pastor, occurred that nearly divided the church, and resulted in the calling of one of the most important and exciting ecclesiastical councils ever held in this section of New England ; the council included some of the most eminent clergymen and leading laymen of the denomination in the State. The decision was, that although recognizing the ability and faithfulness of the pastor, and the more than common success of his work, they deemed it for the best interests of the church that he resign at an early date, not later than the end of the calendar year. In accordance with this recommendation Mr. Stebbins tendered his resignation to take effect Dec. 31, 1888. Soon after finishing his labors in Athol, Mr. Stebbins received a call to become the pastor of the Congregational church of West Medford, where he commenced his duties in October, 1889.

The present pastor, Rev. Edwin S. Gould, was born in New Braintree, Mass., Feb. 20, 1844. When five years old his parents moved to Oakham. His early education was received in the schools of Oakham and at Williston Seminary, Easthampton, where he prepared for college and was also a student of Phillips Academy, Andover. In the war he enlisted in the 51st Mass. regiment, and was honorably discharged with his regiment, at the expiration of the term of service. He also served in the 60th Mass. regiment. After the war he was for three years local and associate editor of papers in Hartford and Worcester. In the fall of 1869 he entered the Hartford Theological Seminary, where he graduated in 1872. He studied a year in Andover Theological Seminary as a resident graduate, and

was ordained to the ministry in Providence, R. I., Oct. 1, 1873, and installed as pastor of the Richmond Street Free Evangelical church in that city. He was married Oct. 20, 1875, to Phebe Sherman Gladding, of Providence. He has held pastorates in West Brookfield, and with the Globe church, Woonsocket, R. I., and came to Athol May 18, 1890.

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

In the early town records appears the following:

"We, the Subscribers being chosen a Committee by the Society of the people called Antipedo Baptists, who meet together for religious worship on the Lord's Day in Athol to exhibit a list or lists of the names of such persons as belong to said Society or Congregation do certify, that Zadok Hayward, Benjamin Dexter, Silas Kendall, Daniel Lamson, Thomas Lord, Nath'l. Babbitt, Joseph Crosby, Ben'm. Powers, John Ballard, do belong to said Society or congregation and that they do frequently and usually, when able, attend with us in our meeting for religious worship on Lord's day, and we do verily believe are with respect to the ordinance of Baptism of the same religious sentiments with us."

WHITMAN JACOBS, Elder,	} Committee.
SIMEON CHAMBERLEN,	
ASA JONES,	

August 30th, 1775.

Similar lists dated the previous year give the names of Eliphalet Moor, Simon Haven, Ebenezer Bullard, Martin Morton; these, with others, constituted the adherents of Elder Whitman Jacobs, who was at that time the second pastor of the Baptist Church in Royalston, but who was a resident of Athol, and of whom Governor Bullock, in his historical address delivered at the Centennial anniversary of Royalston says, "he left many of those marked and decisive influences which control a local history."

In May, 1802, three men were baptised in this town by Rev. Ebenezer Burt, pastor of the Baptist church in Hardwick, two of whom afterwards served the church as

deacons and one as pastor. Soon after, others were baptized, all of whom became members of the Baptist church in Templeton. June 24th, 1810, the Athol members were constituted a branch of the Templeton church and Isaac Briggs and Aaron Oliver were chosen deacons.

They were occasionally supplied with a preacher from abroad, but when they were not, the deacons, in turn conducted religious services on the Sabbath. On April 13, 1813, this branch was organized as an independent church with 22 members at school house No. 2 on the "Street." For the first seven years of its existence the church had no regular pastor, and the services were generally conducted by the deacons.

The first to be ordained as pastor was Deacon Isaac Briggs, who was called to the pastorate and ordained Oct. 4, 1820, and served the church faithfully for nearly 12 years until, in consequence of the infirmities of age, he resigned the pastorate of the church March 11, 1832. He died July 12, 1837, at the age of 75 years. This is the longest pastorate in the history of the church.

Services were first held alternately at the school house on the "Street," and at the old brick school house in the Lower Village. The first house of worship was built in 1828 or 1829, and is now the dwelling house of E. T. Lewis, Esq., on the corner of Main and Summer streets at the Highlands. The second and present house of worship, on the corner of Church and Walnut streets, was built in 1848, and dedicated Feb. 14, 1849. The leading spirits in this enterprise were Dea. Job Fry and Dea. Jonathan Wheeler, together with Rev. Lysander Fay, who was then

pastor of the church at Orange and who canvassed the church and village to obtain funds for the enterprise. An addition was made to the front, and the present stately spire erected in 1859. The interior was entirely remodeled in 1885 at a cost of about \$5,000, including the fine organ which cost \$1,800, and the formal re-dedication of the renovated structure took place on Oct. 1st, 1885.

The church has had during the 79 years of its existence as an independent body, fifteen settled pastors. The second settled pastor was Rev. Ambrose Day who came in the spring of 1833 and remained two years; Rev. J. Glazier was settled in April 1835 and served two years; Rev. Asaph Merriam was settled Oct. 13, 1839, and remained until the spring of 1846, a term of six and one-half years; in May, 1849, Rev. Oren Tracy became pastor and served a little more than a year; April, 1855, Rev. Charles Farrar became pastor and held the office three years; in the spring of 1858 Rev. J. D. Reid was settled, but he soon changed his religious doctrines and declared his purpose to return to the communion of the Episcopal church; he asked a dismission but the church had become greatly attached to him and voted to retain him until the end of the year for which he was engaged. This caused trouble and a division of the church and community, and resulted in the closing of the meeting house for a year. The next settled pastor was Rev. Charles Ayer, who commenced his labors in September, 1862, and remained a year and a half; April 2d, 1864, Rev. G. L. Hunt became pastor and held the office for three years; On April 7, 1867, Rev. D. H. Stoddard preached his first sermon to this church and was settled as pastor the 1st of June following; this pas-

torate continued for seven years, being next to the longest in the history of the church, and was eminently successful.

In 1874 Rev. J. C. Emery became pastor and served two years, when he was succeeded by Rev. E. M. Bartlett, who commenced his labors on the first Sabbath of July, 1876 and continued four and one half years; Rev. J. H. Cox became pastor in 1881 and served six years during which time the church enjoyed a great degree of prosperity.

Rev. Horace F. Brown, the next pastor, was born in Hopkinton. N. H. He attended the schools of his native town and prepared for college at the New London Literary and Scientific institution, New London, N. H. He graduated at Brown University in 1876 and three years later from the Newton Theological Seminary. He was ordained Oct., 1879, as pastor of the Baptist church in Antrim, N. H., where he remained five and one fourth years. After a pastorate of between two and three years at Rumney, N. H., he came to Athol in 1887, and was the loved and popular pastor until March, 1893, when he resigned to accept the pastorate of the church in East Greenwich, R. I.

Rev. Byron H. Thomas, the present pastor commenced his duties July 1, 1893, and the services held in "Recognition" of the pastor took place on the evening of Sept. 13 following, Rev. Charles A. Eaton of Natick preaching the sermon. Mr. Thomas was born May 22d, 1865, at South Bay in the Province of New Brunswick, and is of Welsh parentage, his father, Benjamin Thomas, coming from Wales to America when a boy. His education was received in the Boston public schools, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, and the New Brunswick Baptist

Seminary at St. John's, N. B. He was ordained to the ministry at Maugerville, N. B., June, 18, 1888, and has served successful pastorates at Sackville, Maugerville and Jacksonville, New Brunswick, more than three hundred being added to these churches under his labors. In April, 1889, he was married to Miss Bessie M. Harrison, daughter of C. B. Harrison, a man well-known in the provincial parliament of his country. Mr. Thomas has always been interested in the temperance cause from a boy, and early connected himself with temperance organizations, in which he has held the highest offices; he is a Past Grand Chief Templar of New Brunswick. Over nine hundred members have been connected with this church, since its organization.

Rev. Ebenezer Burt, a prominent Baptist, although not a pastor of the Athol church, was well known in this town, which was his home during some of the latter years of his life, and where he occasionally preached. He was born in Norton, March 9, 1766, and died in Athol Nov. 25, 1861. He was ordained as a Baptist minister upon a rock in Hardwick, June 20, 1798, Elder Enoch Goff of Dighton preaching the ordination sermon. He lived to preach 4961 sermons, to solemnize 97 marriages, attend 327 funerals and baptize 200 candidates. Of all the sermons he ever preached, it appears that but one was written, and this after he had been fifty years in the ministry.

Among the Societies that have been connected with the Baptist Church, we find the records of one that will be interesting to the members of the church to-day, as showing the self-sacrificing spirit of the sisters of the

Church a half a century ago. This society flourished from 1835 to about 1845, and bore the name of "The Female Judson Plain Dress Society in Athol."

The constitution read as follows:

"ART. 1st. The object of this Society is to lessen our expenses for dress that we may be enabled to increase our charities, and aid in sending the gospel and means of grace to the many millions of our fellow creatures who are perishing for lack of a knowledge of the Savior—And also to encourage the heart of that beloved and devoted Missionary (Mr. Judson) who has recommended that such societies be formed, and is willing to deny himself of many things if he may but give the bread of life to the perishing.

ART. 2nd. All females contributing annually twenty-five cents (or more if they feel disposed) shall be members of this Society.

ART. 3rd. The funds of this Society arising from contributions by the members of the Society, or by others disposed to aid their benevolent design, shall for the present, be appropriated to aid in supplying the Burmans with the Bible, which is now being printed in their own language."

Other articles related to the officers of the Society, their duties, the times of meetings, etc.

The first meeting of this Society was held at the Parsonage, Aug. 11, 1835, and the records of the Secretary read as follows: "The meeting was opened with prayer by Sister Dexter, after which the constitution was read and adopted. We then proceeded to choose the officers for the year ensuing, and the following were chosen, viz.: Hannah Glazier, Secretary; Miss Lucinda Fay, Treasurer; Mrs. Frances Dexter, Mrs. Hannah Briggs, Miss Hannah Ann Ball, Mrs. Mary W. Brooks, Collectors. The meeting was then adjourned to the second Wednesday in August, 1836. Prayer was offered by Sister Goddard—May the blessing of Heaven rest on

this Society, and may our united efforts be a means of putting the Bible into the hands of many a Burman.' ”

H. GLAZIER, SEC'Y.

Hannah Glazier, the secretary, was probably the wife of Rev. J. Glazier, who was the third pastor of the church, while the names of the more than 40 members of the Society are those of old Athol families.

#### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The first Methodist meeting held in the village of Athol Depot, as far as can be learned, was in the fall of 1851 at the house now standing at the corner of Main and School Streets, then the residence of George Gerry, and the congregation consisted of three persons. On November 30th of that year Rev. Wm. A. Clapp, then the preacher in charge of the Phillipston Church, came to Athol Depot and organized a class of fifteen persons, and appointed Mr. George Gerry as leader. The persons constituting the class were Ephraim W. Weston, Roxanna C. Weston, George Gerry, Sophia Gerry, William R. Battles, Cynthia Battles, James Giles, Parthena Giles, Sumner R. Morse, Mary T. Morse, Edwin J. Decker, Charlotte C. Hinckley, Roswell Graham, Sylvester Davis and Catherine Young.

Meetings continued to be held at the house of Mr. Gerry until the spring of 1852, when the presiding elder appointed Rev. Mr. Heywood of Gill as pastor of the society. Mr. Heywood did not reside in town, but came here every week to preach and visit his people. Services were held at this time in what was known as Hill's Hall, in the upper part of the building, now known as the Old





# CHURCHES.



Arcade standing at the corner of Main and Canal Streets.

After a few months Mr. Heywood was succeeded by Rev. John Goodwin, who moved into town, and lived under the hall in which services were held, making shoes during the week and preaching on Sunday. Mr. Goodwin was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Rice, who also resided in the village. The next minister, and the first one appointed by the New England Conference, was Rev. N. H. Martin, whose pastorate commenced in the spring of 1855 and continued two years. The ministers since then have been as follows: Rev. Linus Fish, '57-58; Rev. W. J. Hambleton, '59; Rev. Increase B. Bigelow, '60-61; Rev. John H. Coolidge, '62; Rev. F. T. George, '63-64; Rev. John Capen, '65; Rev. C. H. Hanaford, '66-67; Rev. Mr. Harding, '67; Rev. N. T. Harlow, '68; Rev. C. L. McCurdy, '69-70-71; Rev. John Peterson, '72-73-74; Rev. Austin F. Herrick, '75-76-77; Rev. Lorenzo A. Bosworth, '78-79-80; Rev. Wm. Full, '81-82; Rev. A. R. Nichols, '83; Rev. P. M. Vinton, '84-85-86; Rev. W. N. Richardson, '87-88-89-90; Rev. Wm. W. Baldwin, '91-92; Rev. James H. Humphrey, '93.

At the commencement of the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Martin in 1855 the place of meeting was transferred to Houghton's Hall, the building now occupied by the City Hotel, and in 1861 the present church edifice was erected, the dedicatory exercises taking place Nov. 6th, 1861. In 1887 during the first year of the pastorate of Rev. W. N. Richardson, the interior of the church building was remodelled and repaired at an expense of about \$4000, and was re-dedicated Jan. 25th, 1888. In 1892 a corner tower was erected which adds much to the appearance of the

building, and the grounds in front were graded and enclosed with a stone curbing. Both interior and exterior now present a most pleasant and attractive appearance. During the 42 years existence of this church 696 persons have been in its membership. The present membership is 224. Sixteen revival seasons have been enjoyed, in which from 20 to 113 names have been entered as probationers, the latter number being during the ministry of Rev. W. N. Richardson, whose pastorate of four years was the longest of the twenty-two ministers who have served this church as pastors. Two anniversary occasions have been observed by the church; the first being Nov. 22, 1881, the 30th anniversary of the organization of the church, when Rev. Mr. Full, the pastor, gave an historical address and Mr. C. R. Bruce, Superintendent of the Sunday School, gave a brief history of the School. At this time the sum of \$500 was raised by subscription as a thank offering to pay off the floating debt of the church. There were five of the former pastors present, Rev. N. H. Martin, Rev. Increase B. Bigelow, Rev. C. H. Hanaford, Rev. A. F. Herrick and Rev. L. A. Bosworth. The second occasion was the 40th anniversary which was observed Nov. 29, 1891, with a historical sermon by the pastor, Rev. W. W. Baldwin, a sketch of the Sunday School by the Superintendent, L. B. Caswell, and short addresses by those representing the various departments of the church.

Rev. W. W. Baldwin, pastor in 1891 and '92, was born in Blenheim, N. Y., May 30, 1837, the youngest in a family of twelve children. His father was of the Connecticut family of that name, and his mother came from a Scotch Presbyterian family who came to this country

about 1790. Mr. Baldwin was educated at Union College and at the Theological School of Boston University. He was licensed to preach at Seward, N. Y., in August, 1859, and joined the Maine Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in May, 1862, when he was sent into mission work in northern New Hampshire. In 1865 he was sent into the Colorado Mission among the gold and silver miners. In 1867 he planted the Methodist church in the then new territory of Wyoming, at its capital, Cheyenne. From 1868 to 1873 he labored in Michigan, and from 1873 to 1884 he served churches in Maine, and from that time his pastorates have been in Massachusetts.

Rev. James H. Humphrey, the present pastor, was born in New York State, and when two years of age moved with his parents to Wisconsin. He received his college training at Lawrence University, Appleton, Wis., and afterwards took a law course at the Wisconsin State University. In 1871 he went to Boston and entered the Theological School of Boston University, from which he graduated in 1873, and subsequently received the degree of Ph. D. He is a veteran of the war, having served in the 40th Wisconsin Regiment. His first pastorate was at Marshfield, in 1873, and he has since had appointments at Mansfield, Bourne, New Bedford, Reading, Ashburnham, Edgartown and other places.

- A name dear to Athol Methodists is that of Rev. J. N. Mars, or Father Mars, as he was known among New England Methodists. He was born of slave parents, June 22, 1804, in Norfolk, Conn., but was never a slave, as his father and mother had escaped from bondage, or had committed "An Exodus," as he called it. In a sketch of

his life, entitled, "Battles with Bondage, or My Life for Three Quarters of a Century," which he prepared for a Methodist publication, he says, "My father, whose name was Jupiter Mars, and mother, whose name was simply Fannie, were not of Puritan stock, but were owned by a Presbyterian preacher, which was no mean inheritance, and what was more, they were both born in Virginia. Married in the South, they were brought to the North a few years later by their master, the Rev. Mr. Thompson, who had come into New England to live. The minister settled in Canaan, Conn., where my father and his family continued to be his slaves." Father Mars had only six months schooling and worked on a farm until nearly 19 years of age, but he was a natural speaker, with a bright intellect, and being profoundly converted to God, labored with most powerful effect as a minister of the gospel and evangelist. At camp meetings his bronzed face would beam with light, and the vast congregations swayed like the tree-tops in the wind under his powerful exhortations, and he would move his audiences as few other men could. During the war he was Chaplain of the First North Carolina colored regiment, and had charge of the army stores at Newbern for several months; he was ordered to Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va., where he was the Chaplain of a number of regiments until 1864, when he was admitted to the New England Conference, and stationed in Clinton, Mass. Afterwards he became presiding elder in the Washington Conference, (colored,) and was also the honored pastor of a large congregation in Baltimore. Returning to New England in 1870, he was stationed at Revere Street, Boston, was city missionary in 1871 and

stationed in Athol in 1872, which was ever after his home until his death, Sept. 18, 1882.

#### SOUTH ATHOL METHODIST CHURCH.

The Methodist Church at South Athol was first organized in December, 1831. The members of the first class were Royal Smith, James Giles, Benjamin Cook, James Giles, Jr., Braddyll Smith, Jr., Daniel Hale, Nathan Smith, James Oliver, Elbridge Smith, Asa Adams, Franklin Giles, Ebenezer Wilber, Willard Blanchard, Daniel Hager. Their meetings were first held in school houses and private dwellings, and sometimes in the summer in barns.

The present house of worship, which was among the first Methodist meeting houses in this part of the State, was built in 1836. At that time it was within the limits of the town of New Salem, but the next year after its erection that section became a portion of Athol. The first Methodist converts were baptized in a pond called Hacker's pond in New Salem, and the woods were full of people to witness the ceremony. The first ministers were a Rev. Mr. Hull, Rev. Hezekiah Collier, Rev. Geo. W. Green, Rev. John Brackett, Rev. Simon Pike, Rev. T. W. Gile, Rev. Amasa Taylor, Rev. Jarvis Wilson. The ministers since 1860 have been as follows: Rev. H. T. Eddy, Rev. Alonzo Sanderson, Rev. Mr. Smith, Rev. J. J. Woodbury, Rev. H. S. Booth, Rev. Randall Mitchell, Rev. Wm. Jagger, Rev. Alphonzo Day, Rev. Mr. Ferguson, Rev. T. C. Martin, Rev. Mr. Ross, Rev. J. J. Woodbury, Rev. Mr. Sherman, Rev. Mr. Bragg, Rev. George Hudson, Rev. Wm. Silverthorne. The present

pastor is Rev. J. W. Fulton. A large pulpit Bible was presented to the Society at the dedication of the church in October, 1836, by Sumner R. Morse of Athol. The present membership is 29.

#### THE SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH.

This Society was legally organized, at a meeting held at Starr Hall, June 11, 1877, and was composed largely of those who had been members and attendants of the Old First Church. The first officers of the Society were: Hon. Alpheus Harding, moderator; Lucien Lord, clerk; D. A. Newton, treasurer; Edward F. Brown, collector; and an Executive Committee of ten as follows: Hon. Alpheus Harding, George T. Johnson, E. F. Brown, A. A. Ward, A. L. Newman, D. A. Newton, A. L. Cheney, W. W. Fish, Hon. Charles Field, Lucien Lord.

The first pastor was Rev. James C. Parsons of Waltham, to whom a unanimous call had been extended on April 3rd, 1877, and who preached his first sermon as pastor the first Sunday in May, and was installed June 12, 1877. The installation was a memorable occasion, and was participated in by some of the most distinguished Unitarian clergymen of the State, including Rev. A. P. Peabody, D. D., of Harvard University, who preached the sermon, Rev. A. D. Mayo of Springfield gave the charge to the pastor, and Rev. J. F. Moors, of Greenfield, the address to the people. The Society held its meetings in Starr Hall for over four years, until its present church edifice was built. Land was purchased in the spring of 1880, and the erection of the church was soon commenced and was first opened to the public April 13th, 1881, at



which time the choir gave an organ concert. The first religious services were held on Easter Sunday, and on the 7th day of September following, the church was dedicated free from debt, with interesting exercises, the sermon being preached by the Rev. Rush R. Shippen, of Washington, D. C.

Mr Parson's pastorate was successful throughout, and under his efficient leadership the Society was rapidly built up. He was a man of culture and fine education, and actively promoted the intellectual life of the community. He was prominently identified with the organization of the Athol Library Association, that has since become the Athol Public Library, and to his labors much of the credit for its successful formation is due. He tendered his resignation July 17, 1881, to take effect October 1st of that year, and has since been the popular Principal of the Prospect Hill School for young ladies at Greenfield.

The second pastor was Rev. Charles P. Lombard, who was installed April 11, 1882, Rev. Dr. Bartol, of Boston, preaching the sermon. Mr. Lombard was born in Boston, June 9, 1845, and attended the Mayhew Grammar School in that city, entering the Public Latin School at ten years of age. Preparing to enter college his health failed him, and it was several years before he regained strength to enable him to study for the ministry. He graduated from the Harvard Divinity School in 1878, and received a call to Ellsworth, Maine, where he remained three years, and then came to Athol. He remained as pastor of the church for six years, and then resigned to accept a call to the First Parish of Plymouth, which is the old historic society

of the Pilgrim Fathers, established in England in 1606, and where he still ministers. During Mr. Lombard's pastorate the handsome and pleasant parish building known as Unity Hall was built, and was dedicated June 11, 1885, with interesting services. Mr. Lombard's pastorate was eminently successful, and when he resigned it was deeply regreted, not only by his own church, but by the townspeople generally.

Rev. Charles E. Perkins, the third pastor, was born in La Porte, Ind., June 12, 1853. His early education was obtained in the public schools of Maumee City, Ohio, from the High School of which he graduated in 1867. He was for a time clerk in a dry goods store in Oswego, N. Y., and for eleven years was employed in the office of the Kingsford Starch Works of that city, which position he resigned to take the pastorate of the Universalist Churches in Clifton Springs and Geneva, N. Y., where he remained three years, resigning in May, 1888 to accept the call extended to him by the Second Unitarian Church of Athol. He was installed on the 29th of June of that year, the installation sermon being preached by Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D. D. He resigned the last of April, 1892, and in May went to Iowa City, Iowa, as pastor of the Unitarian church of that city.

During the summer of 1892, Walter Eustace Lane, of Saco, Maine, preached as a candidate on several occasions, with such general satisfaction that in September he was given a unanimous call to become pastor of the church, and was ordained and installed Nov. 17, 1892, Rev. Francis B. Hornbrooke, of Newton, preaching the sermon. Rev. Walter Eustace Lane, the present pastor

of the Second Unitarian Society, was born in Gloucester, Mass., Sept. 6, 1866. His home, since he was six years of age, has been in Saco, Maine, where his parents now reside. In his early school life he conceived a desire to enter the ministry, but circumstances forced him to engage in journalistic labors, instead of fulfilling his plan of taking a university course. During several years of newspaper work he furthered his prospects and preparations for the ministry, and in 1888 the way opened for him to enter the Meadville, Pennsylvania Theological school where he took a four years course graduating in the summer of 1892. His energy, enthusiasm and devotion have made him popular as a preacher and in the social life of the church.

The cost of the church property owned by this society, including the church edifice, Unity Hall and the parsonage has been about \$23,000.

A Sunday school was organized June 23rd, 1877, with Mr Lucien Lord as superintendent, who has continued to serve in that capacity to the present time. The annual fair, held by the ladies of this society, has become one of the social events of the year and the average net receipts of these fairs during the last twelve years has been over \$500.

#### ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

According to Whitney, the historian, there was one family of Episcopalians in Athol in 1793, but we have no record of religious services being held by this denomination prior to June 1864, at which time the Rev. P. Voorhees Finch, now of Greenfield, officiated. The meet-

ings were then held in the Town Hall where Rev. Dr. Huntington and others continued to hold occasional services up to the time of the formation of the parish. On September 3, 1866, St. John's Parish was organized and on the third of December following was incorporated. Rev. James D. Reid was at once chosen as rector of the new parish, but after laboring for about a year he removed from town and for several years thereafter few services were held. In the autumn of 1881, however, Rev. J. S. Beers was elected diocesan missionary and under his faithful labors interest in the work of this organization was revived and prospered and in December, 1888 a successful effort was made to reorganize the parish. Regular meetings were held in the Town Hall until March of the following year, when Temple of Honor Hall was secured where the meetings continued to be held. On March 10, 1889 a Sunday school was established and March 18, a call was extended to Rev. C. J. Shrimpton of Ridgeway Pa., to become the rector of the parish. The call was accepted and on the 7th of April following Mr. Shrimpton began his labors.

At that time there were about sixty communicants, and the pressing need of a suitable house of public worship was so apparent and the desire for a permanent church home so generally felt that steps were immediately taken to secure an eligible site for a church edifice. The house and lot of Hollon Farr on the corner of Park Avenue and School Street and extending to Allen Street was purchased, and in June 1890 ground was broken, and the erection of a building begun, the corner stone of

which was laid June      with appropriate and interesting exercises. It is a unique structure the interior of which is tastily and beautifully arranged and furnished; the cost of the building was \$3,500, and it was first occupied on Sunday, Oct. 5, 1890. The church was consecrated Oct. 22, 1891 by Rt. Rev. Phillips Brooks, and was one of his first official acts after assuming the duties of Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts.

The present number of communicants is seventy. Rev. C. J. Shrimpton, the present rector, was born in Montreal, in 1835. He was educated in Woodstock Institute, Woodstock, Canada, and was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1861, serving churches at Stratford, Canada, and at Stillwater and Ithaca, N. Y. He was ordained a priest of the Protestant Episcopal church, at Fayetteville, N. Y., in 1878, and was in charge of parishes in Galesburg, Ill., and at Ridgeway, Pa., until coming to Athol in April 1889.

#### SECOND ADVENT CHURCH.

Those who have given historical sketches of the churches existing in Athol at the time of the great Millerite excitement which swept over the country in 1842 and '43 allude to its effect upon their societies. Rev. S. F. Clarke in his Centennial discourse of 1850 says, "the two most remarkable excitements experienced in town were those which were felt more or less over a large portion of our country, and which were very similar in their nature,—the one known here, in popular phrase, as the "Foote," the other as the "Miller" excitement. Upon either of these we forbear comment, or even an attempt at descrip-

tion. We would be charitable in our judgment, especially of the latter." Rev. D. H. Stoddard in his history of the Baptist Church delivered in 1873 says, "The vagaries of Millerism also brought discord and division to this church as to many others. At one time *fifteen* members having been led to believe that the church as it then existed was Anti-Christ, went out from the church." And Rev. H. A. Blake in his historical address of the Evangelical Congregational church delivered on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary in 1880 said, regarding the converts of Evangelist Foote, "Some were intemperate, some altogether indifferent and many were drawn into the excitement and error of the Adventist movement of 1843." Evidently there was a great searching and shaking up in the churches while the agitation attending this movement was in progress.

In 1842 the Millerites, as they were called, held largely attended camp meetings in a grove not far from the south end of Pleasant Street, and these meetings were kept up for years by a few of the faithful who accepted these doctrines.

These faithful few on May 17, 1863, effected a church organization with twenty-eight members. This first church roll contains the following names: Addison Cutting, Daniel Ellinwood, J. F. Sawtell, Geo. A. Streeter, Ensign A. Marsh, LaRoy Ellinwood, J. F. Crawford, Daniel W. Ellinwood, Henry W. Stratton, Persis F. Cutting, Jane Sawtell, Caroline Stratton, Mary E. Streeter, Hannah Stratton, Lydia W. Kendall, Hannah Whitman, Lutherea Weaver. Fannie M. Stratton, Sarah T. Ellin-

wood, Hannah Ellinwood, Sarah R. Stratton, Martha J. Crawford, Anna E. Kendall, Sarah Hager, Lydia Cook, Diantha Stockwell, Wealthy J. Stockwell, Laura M. Stratton. Meetings were at first held in the school house, near the Drury farm, on the Petersham road, and in 1870 the hall of the engine house at the Upper Village was engaged and services were held there until 1872. In January of that year the church was reorganized with 54 members a tract of land was purchased on Main Street, nearly opposite the Town Hall, and during the year 1873 the present neat church building was erected at an expense of about \$3000. Soon after the new church was occupied Rev. Roland D. Grant became the pastor and served the society from Jan. 5, 1876 to Nov. 1, 1876. Mr. Grant has since become one of the most eminent Baptist preachers of the state, serving churches at Beverly and Boston and is now pastor of a church in Portland, Oregon, with a salary of \$4000. Dr. James Hemenway, who has been the acting pastor of the church most of the time since its organization, was born in Framingham in 1823, and began to work in a mill in that town when only seven years old. He educated himself outside of working hours and rose to the position of overseer. He removed to Concord in 1840 and became superintendent of the woolen department of Damon's factory which position he held until 1844, when he was converted and soon began travelling as an independent evangelist. He was ordained in 1859 by the Rhode Island Advent Christian Conference, serving societies in Danielsonville, Conn., Dover, Me., and other places, and came to Athol in 1864.

Mr. Hemenway has practised dentistry much of the time since he has resided in Athol, and at one time had a Boston office in connection with his Athol office. He was or nearly four years business agent and treasurer of the Advent Publication Society, and largely increased its business during his connection with it. He has also devoted much time to a study of the pyramids of Egypt, upon which he has lectured successfully in many places. Dr. Hemenway has been for several years president of the Advent Camp Meeting Association at Springfield, and is one of the leading men of his denomination. He has been active in temperance and other reformatory work, and was the candidate of the Prohibition party for Representative to the Legislature in 1893.

#### ST. CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Previous to 1850 the Catholics of Athol had no regular services, but were visited occasionally by priests from different places. After this time Rev. M. W. Gibson, of Worcester, held services here, and in 1853 purchased the old Baptist Church in the Upper Village, which was the church home of this denomination for thirty years. In 1855 Rev. Father Turpin, of Fitchburg, took charge of Athol as a mission. About 1862 Otter River in Templeton became a parish, and Athol and Orange were attached to it. For several years Rev. Father Bannon, the resident pastor of Otter River, visited Athol monthly and held services. Following him were Rev's. William Orr, two by the name of McManas, R. J. Donovan and Robert Welch. Rev. Joseph Coyne for several years held services three times each month, until 1882, when Athol became a



parish, and Rev. E. F. Martin was appointed as the first resident pastor.

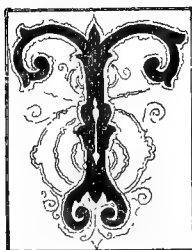
Rev. Edward F. Martin was born in Barre, Mass., in 1844. His early life was spent in Worcester. During the war of the Rebellion he enlisted in the United States Navy, and served on board the "Canandaigua" and "Miami," and was captured at Fort Temple, Sept. 8, 1863. He spent fourteen months in Andersonville and other Southern prisons, and was discharged from the service in 1865. He soon after took up college studies at St. Charles, Maryland, and was ordained at St. Joseph's Seminary, Troy, N. Y. He was first stationed at Lee and Adams, in this state, as assistant, and was appointed pastor of St. Catherine's Parish in 1882. The old church building soon proved too small to accommodate the Society, and meeting swere held for a time in the Town Hall. In 1883 the valuable real estate known as Drury's Grove, containing about four acres, and situated between the villages, was purchased, and in 1884 a commodious basement was built and roofed over where the church services have since been held. The next year a fine parochial residence was erected. The Society numbers about nine hundred souls. In addition to ministering to this large number, Father Martin also holds services every Sunday at Orange, which is attached to the Athol Parish.

## CHAPTER VI.

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### ATHOL IN THE REVOLUTION.

"Few were the numbers she could boast,  
But every freeman was a host,  
And felt as though himself were he  
On whose sole arm hung victory."



THE ANNALS of the town leave no doubt as to the patriotism of Athol in the dark days of the Revolution, and the records of the frequent town meetings held through the years of the war bear testimony that the town was not behind her sister towns in resisting the oppression and tyranny of Great Britian, and in furnishing food and clothing for the suffering armies of freedom, while the families of her citizens who were taking part in the great struggle for liberty were kindly cared for. As early as May, 1770 a vote was passed granting "six pounds to provide a stock of ammuniton for the town." When the news of the order for closing the port of Boston was received, we find the men of Athol gathering at a full meeting of the Freeholders and other inhabitants of the Town July 7, 1774, with Deacon Aaron Smith as Moderator, and

unanimously agreeing to enter into a "*League or Covenant* binding ourselves to renounce the use and consumption of all goods that shall arrive in America from Great Britain from and after the last day of August next ensuing, until the act for blocking up the Harbor of Boston shall be repealed and us restored to the free use and enjoyment of our national and charter rights, or until other measures shall be adopted by the body of the people or the General Congress of the Colonies that are soon to meet shall be thought more likely to afford deliverance." A Committee of Correspondence was also chosen consisting of Dea. Aaron Smith, Wm. Bigelow, Josiah Goddard, Capt. John Haven, Ephraim Stockwell, James Oliver, Abner Graves, James Stratton, Jr. and Daniel Lamson, to correspond with similar committees in other towns of the Province.

At a meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town duly assembled and convened, on the 25th of August following, seven patriotic resolutions were unanimously passed.

The 1st. of these resolutions points to a closer and firmer bond of union between the colonies.

The 2d. acknowledges the loyalty of the people to King George the Third, so long as he shall rule and govern agreeable to the English constitution and our chartered rights, but no longer.

The 3d. condemns the blockade and plunder of Boston.

The 4th. complains of the injustice involved in the practical repeal of the charters of the colonies.

The 5th. is a pledge of resistance to the unjust measures pursued by the British Government.

The 6th. signifies their approbation of a County meeting that is to be held at Worcester, and appoints William Bigelow and Daniel Lamson to attend said meeting.

The 7th. is as follows: "Resolved, that if any person shall accept any commission or post of office to serve under the new establishment, he ought to be looked upon and treated as an enemy to his country; as he, thereby, is joining with, and lending a helping hand to those who are endeavoring to enslave us." Such were the sentiments of the men of Athol in the days of the Revolution.

The votes passed at the various town meetings show that the voters of Athol were determined that as far as they were concerned, the rights of freemen should be protected at any cost.

At a town meeting held on the 29th of September 1774 it was voted "to enlist thirty men exclusive of officers to send in case of alarm," and also "to have two companies of militia in town," one on each side of the river. At the same meeting William Bigelow was chosen a delegate to attend and represent the town "in the Provincial Congress to be holden at Concord on the second Tuesday of October" ensuing. He was also chosen as a delegate to attend at Cambridge and "join with the Provincial Congress at their first sessions if the Continental Congress breaks up and the members that went from this province return home."

Jan. 11, 1775, the town voted "that we do approve of and will adopt the non importation agreement recommended by the Continental Congress." And on March 6, 1775 the last town meeting is warned in his Majesties name. On the 15th of the following June it is voted to raise a Minute Company consisting of 25 men commissioned offi-

cers included. Who were these minute men? Geo. Wm. Curtis in his address at the Centennial anniversary of the battles of Concord and Lexington most truly describes them :

“The minute man of the American Revolution, who was he? He was the husband and father who, bred to love liberty, and to know that lawful liberty is the sole guaranty of peace and progress, left the plow in the furrow and the hammer on the bench, and kissing wife and children marched to die or to be free. He was the son and lover, the plain shy youth of the singing school and the village choir, whose heart beat to arms with his country, and who felt, though he could not say, with the old English cavalier :

“I could not love thee, deare, so much,  
Loved I not honor more.”

When the decisive moment came and “the shot heard round the world” was fired, the minute men of Athol were ready to respond to the Lexington alarm, and among the musty old records preserved at the State House in Boston, we find their names recorded on “A Muster Roll of ye Comp. that marched on ye 19th of April under ye command of Capt. Ichabod Dexter in Col. Doolittles Regt.

Ichabod Dexter, captain,	— Benja. Death,	“
✓ Ephraim Stockwell, lieutenant,	✓ Abner Morton,	“
✓ Abner Graves, lieutenant, <i>insig</i>	✓ Joshua Morton,	“
✓ Thomas Lord, sergeant, <i>clerk</i>	✓ Moses Ball,	“
✓ Simon Goddard, sergeant,	✓ Isaac Ball,	“
✓ Caleb Smith, sergeant,	✓ Jonathan Train,	“
✓ Asa Smith, corporal, <i>clerk</i>	— John Dike,	“
✓ John Stockwell, corporal,	✓ Kimble Woods,	“
✓ Joseph Cummings, corporal,	✓ Zebulon Stratton,	“
✓ Ezra Hudson, private,	✓ Joseph Fay,	“
✓ Robbart Young, “	✓ Ebenz. Goddard,	“

Samuel Young, "	Reuben Graves, "
William Young, "	Samuel Hall, "
Benja. Townsing, "	Jonathan Biglo, "
Robbart Oliver, "	Asa Hartness, "

Most of these were in service 13 days and their travel was 160 miles.

Ichabod Dexter, Athol's first captain in the Revolution, who led the minute men in the Lexington Alarm, was a son of Samuel Dexter, who is supposed to have come to Athol in 1736 and settled on what was called West Hill, in the vicinity of the old fort. Samuel was a son of Benjamin Dexter who was born in Rochester, Mass. in 1670 and married Sarah Arnold, daughter of Rev. Samuel Arnold the first minister of Rochester, and was a descendent of Thomas Dexter who came from England in 1630, being one of the 1500 that came with Winthrop.

Ichabod was a young blacksmith and according to tradition was in the French and Indian war, and was at the taking of old Fort Ticonderoga when all the men in line on both sides of him were shot down and his clothes were riddled with bullets, but none happened to draw blood. He and his brother Samuel were also out as scouts at one time, and were taken prisoners by the Indians, who started with them for Canada, but as they were camped one night the brothers woke up and finding their captors were all asleep they sent the whole company to the happy hunting grounds, and started through the wilderness for Athol, which they barely lived to reach, being obliged to kill and eat their dog which was with them. He was one of the early Selectmen of Athol and held other town offices.

Sometime before 1781 he moved to Hardwick, for

according to the records of that town he was one of the Selectmen of Hardwick in 1781, 1782 and 1785 and represented that town in the General Court in 1782 and 1783. He was an active promoter of Shay's Rebellion in 1786 and his name with Samuel Dexter was among a list which the Sheriff of Worcester County in a letter to the Governor says are "the names of a number of their principal leaders and commanders," but he afterwards made his peace with the Government.

He died of apoplexy Feb. 13, 1797, being at the time of his death 59 years, 7 months and 19 days of age. On the settlement of his estate in April 1798, shares were allotted to seven children. After returning from the Lexington Alarm it seems that Capt. Dexter soon led another company to the field, for we find a muster roll of a company under command of Capt. Ichabod Dexter in Col. B. Ruggles Woodbridge Regt., to Aug. 1, 1775, most of whom enlisted the last days of April or first of May. On the roll appear the names of seven who were in the first company that marched, while eighteen new recruits appear.

Another Athol captain was Capt. Thomas Lord, who was Sergeant in the first company that marched and was afterwards captain in several different companies. "A Continental Pay Roll of Capt. Thomas Lord's company in Col. Nathan Sparhawk's Regt., of Militia from Athol in State of Mass. Bay to Bennington including the time to return" contains the names of thirty-one men including the Captain. This company enlisted Aug 21, 1777, and was discharged Aug. 26, 1777. Their distance from home was 96 miles, and the time of service including time to return, ten days.

Another continental pay roll of Capt. Thomas Lord's company in Col. Job Cushing's Regiment of Militia from the state of Mass. Bay, including the time to return home, contained the names of forty-five men, most of whom marched a distance of 220 miles from home, and were ten or eleven days in service. The name of John Oliver also appears on some of the muster rolls at the State House as an Athol captain.

A statement in the town records of 1777 shows that Athol had furnished soldiers who were distributed throughout the Continental army, at Cambridge, Roxbury, Dorchester, Nantastick, York, Ticonderoga, Tarrytown, the Jerseys, Rhode Island, Bennington, Saratoga and Fort Edward.

There is preserved in the Sprague family an interesting relic in the shape of an ancient document which contains the marching orders sent to an Athol captain:

"To Capt. Eph'm Stockwell:

Sir:—By virtue of an express from Gen'l Warren in which i am Directed to detach Every Sixth man out of my Regiment to go to the releaf of our Distressed Breatheren to the westward, I do Hereby Direct and Order you forth-with with-out the Least Delay and with the utmost Despatch to Detach Every Sixth man out of the Training Band and alarm List of your Company for the purpose affores'd and See that they are acquipt according to Law with armes, ammunition, also with Kittles and Cooking utensils. The Selectmen are Directed to acquip those that are not acquiped, you are also to detach one Corporal. And when you have so Done you are to march them to Petersham on Monday the twenty-eighth day of this Instant July to meet on the Paraid near the Meeting House in said Town at nine o'clock in the forenoon, you are also to take the command of the men Detached from captains Nye, Henery and Lord's Companey's Together with your own Detachment. And from sd Petersham you are to make your Route By the way of Bennington, where you are to receive further orders from Colo-Cushing, you are to Return me a List of the names of those men Detached from your Company Immediately.

Barre, July 26th, 1777.

NATHAN SPARHAWK, Col."



This company was in the battle of Bennington and afterwards captured, in New Jersey, a British detachment one less in number without firing a shot. In the terrible conflict of White Plains two of its men were killed who bore the Athol names of Morse and Goddard. The first pastor of Athol, Rev. James Humphrey, has left this record respecting them, "Mr. Earl Cutting, their townsman and messmate, was between them when they fell." Tradition adds that one of them when wounded, leaped over a fence and died without uttering a word.

Preserved in the archives of the State House at Boston on the various muster rolls and continental pay rolls of companies and regiments we find the names of 156 Athol men who served in the Continental Army at some time from 1775 to the close of the war.

Capt. Ichabod Dexter,	Capt. Thomas Lord,
" John Oliver,	" Ephraim Stockwell,
Lieut. Abner Graves,	Lieut. Benj. Townsend,
" Zebediah Allen,	Sergt. Simon Goddard,
Sergt. Caleb Smith,	" Steven Stratton,
" Ezra Hudson,	" Joseph Cummings,
" Martin Morton,	" Joseph Buckman,
" Ebenezer Goddard,	" John Humphrey,
" Geo. Cutting,	" David Oliver,
" William Smith,	" Aaron Smith,
Corp. Asa Smith,	Corp. John Stockwell,
" Joseph Morse,	" Robert Young,
" Samuel Hara,	" Benjamin Death,
" John Stone,	" Nahum Fairbanks,
" Francis Smith,	" Wm. Braimond,
" Ithamer Bowker,	" James Wilson,
Drummer Jesse Stockwell,	Drummer Isacher Bates,
Fifer Moses Goddard,	Fifer Simeon Prosson,
Nathaniel Ara,	Moses Ball,
Isaac Ball,	Aaron Ball,
Noah Bates,	Theodor Bates,

Uri Babbitt,  
Joshua Beal  
Reuben Buckman,  
Daniel Bushnell,  
Lucas Carlton,  
Ephraim Cady,  
Stephen Crosby,  
Samuel Cutting,  
Wm. Cutting,  
David Copeland,  
Joshua Davis,  
John Dike,  
Benjamin Fairbanks,  
Philemon Fairbanks,  
Jason Fisk,  
James Fletcher,  
Ebenezer Goddard, Jr.,  
Stephen Goodell,  
Reuben Graves,  
Asa Hartness,  
Lucas Hilton,  
Daniel How,  
Moses Huckans.  
Elnathan Jacobs,  
Eli Jacobs,  
Jonathan Johnson,  
Jonathan Kelton,  
Samuel Kendall,  
Joseph Knights,  
William Lord  
James Lucas,  
Joshua Morton,  
Silas Marble,  
Aaron Marble,  
Daniel Mayson,  
Moses Mixture,  
John Munro,  
Abraham Nutt,  
Aaron Oliver,  
Joseph Parker,  
David Perry,

Nathaniel Babbitt,  
Jotham Biglo,  
Samuel Bradish,  
Jabez Carter, belonged to Reading,  
but enlisted for Athol.  
Ephraim Cheney,  
Wm. Crosby,  
Earl Cutting,  
Isaac Commings,  
Jonathan Childs,  
Jotham Death,  
Benjamin Dollbear,  
John Fairbanks,  
Joseph Fay,  
Jonathan Fletcher,  
Bartholomew French,  
David Goddard,  
Timothy Goodell,  
Samuel Hale,  
Edward Hamon,  
Wm. Holman,  
Jacob Huckans,  
Seth Hutson  
John Jacobs,  
Whitman Jacobs  
John Kelton,  
Lucas Kelton,  
Timothy Kendall,  
William Lewis,  
Robert Love,  
Abner Morton,  
Richard Morton,  
Moses Marble,  
John Mansur,  
Josiah Moor,  
Sam Mixture,  
Asa Buckman,  
Robbart Oliver,  
Daniel Parling  
Eben Parsons,  
Nathaniel Powers

Benj. Presson,	Peter Thompson,
Seth Rider,	Enos Twichell,
Zacheus Rich,	Josiah Wait,
Daniel Rice,	Peleg Watson,
Jotham Rice,	Nicholas Watson,
Rufus Richardson,	Sam Watson,
Benj. Russell,	Ichabod Warner,
Luke Robbins,	Abel White,
Solomon Smith,	Eben Williams,
David Smith,	Jacob Winslow,
Eben Stratton,	Levi Witt,
Peleg Stratton,	Kimble Woods,
Zebulon Stratton,	Jonathan Wood,
Thomas Stow,	Samuel Young,
Rufus Taylor,	William Young,
Isaac Train,	David Young,
Jonathan Train,	

When we consider that the entire population of Athol during the Revolution did not exceed nine hundred, we can form some idea of what the people of this town were called upon to do, when almost the entire able bodied male population of the little town must have been in the service at some time during the war.

We have no means of ascertaining how many of these soldiers were killed in battle, or died from disease brought on by the hardships and perils encountered, or the feats of valor or heroism they may have performed; it would be interesting to know something more of their lives, but the records of both town and state show that Athol was ever ready with a noble spirit of self sacrifice to contribute of her sons and money most liberally for the cause of freedom.

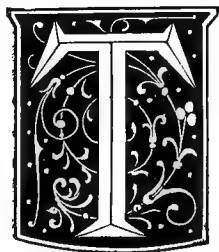
The following are some of the votes passed by the town during the war:

July 24, 1776, voted "to grant six pounds to each man who should enlist into the colony service to go to Canada." March 10, 1777, "voted to raise thirty pounds to provide a town stock of ammunition." April 29 of the same year, voted to pay twenty-four pounds to each man who "shall enlist himself into the Continental army for three years or during the war," and the selectmen were directed to borrow the money. June 6, six pounds were granted in addition to the above to each man so enlisting. Dec 2, 1777, it was "voted to raise 1128 pounds 16 shillings to pay the extraordinary charges of the war." At a town meeting held April 9, 1778, a committee consisting of John Haven, Aaron Smith and Jesse Kindal were chosen to supply the Continental soldiers' families with the necessaries of life, according to the act of contract. June 16, 1778, voted "to raise 125 pounds 11 shillings, to pay for the Continental clothing and for transporting the same to the army." July 15, "voted to raise 1583 pounds, three shillings and eight pence to pay those men that have done service in the war for the town of Athol." June 28, 1779, voted "to give 500 pounds for each man that will engage in the nine months Continental service." Voted "to allow 170 pounds for any man that will engage in the six month's service to Providence Plantation." October 27, 1780, voted to allow 7,650 pounds to Oliver Holman, for beef procured by him, as agent for the town, for the army.

## CHAPTER VII.

### WAR OF 1812 AND POLITICAL HISTORY.

"A weapon that comes down as still  
As snowflakes fall upon the sod,  
But executes a Freeman's will  
As lightning does the will of God,  
And from its force, nor doors nor locks  
Can shield you;—"tis the ballot-box."



THE WAR of 1812 was most strenuously opposed by the people of Athol, and the significant language of the various petitions which they addressed to the President of the United States and the State Legislature show the intense feeling that prevailed and that they were in earnest. The first action taken by the town was at a town meeting held August 31, 1808, when it was voted to petition the President of the United States to repeal the laws laying an embargo. The following were chosen a committee to prepare the petition: James Oliver, Elijah Goddard, Joseph Pierce, James Humphrey and Joseph Proctor.

The following petition was read and unanimously adopted :

"TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: The inhabitants of the Town of Athol in the County of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts in legal town meeting assembled, beg leave respectfully and unanimously to represent that although the evils resulting from the late embargo laws may not be so immediately and sensibly felt by inland towns as by our seaports, and although the farmer may not at present so much as the merchant feel their deliterious effects, yet they are considered of sufficient magnitude to create a general alarm and distress in this interior part of the country, and that the ruin of the husbandman will soon follow that of the merchant unless said evils can speedily be removed. We therefore pray that said laws may be suspended as soon as may be consistent with the nature and fitness of things, and as in duty bound will ever pray."

This petition not having the desired effect, the following winter a town meeting is called to take action on the subject, when the doctrine of state sovereignty and resistance to national control is advocated in a most emphatic and unequivocal manner. The records of this town meeting are most interesting and read as follows:

"The inhabitants of the Town of Athol in legal town meeting on Wednesday, the 15th day of February, 1809, assembled for the purpose of taking into consideration the late measures of our National Administration affecting our Navigation and Commerce. voted to choose a committee to draft an address to our State Legislature upon the subject aforesaid and the following gentlemen were chosen, viz: James Oliver, Joseph Pierce, James Humphrey, William Young and Joseph Proctor. Adjourned half an hour at the expiration of which time said inhabitants met agreeably to adjournment and their committee reported as follows: "That whereas civil liberty and the pursuit of happiness are considered by us as inalienable rights, and no less essential to the good and well being of Political Society than publick authority, therefore: Resolved that we will never surrender these Rights but with the surrender of our lives and as the late measures of our national administration by which our commerce is well nigh destroyed, the right of Trial by Jury in many instances taken away, the civil authority subjected to the military, standing armies distributed over our peaceful land and the right of property left unprotected, are in our opinion, partial, unjust, inexpedient and unconstitutional, the opinion of any earthly judge to the contrary

notwithstanding, therefore: Resolved that we are not bound to support and we will not support such measures: Resolved that we will contribute all in our power to aid and support our State Legislature by all proper means, in opposing such oppressive measures hoping and earnestly requesting that Honorable Body not to quit their posts until they shall have asserted the Sovereignty and Independence of this State and secured to its citizens their wonted privileges.

James Oliver, Chairman."

William Young and Abner Twichell entered their verbal protest against said report.

*Political History.* It was in 1776 that the first step was taken toward the formation of a State Constitution, when the Legislature recommended to the people that they choose deputies to that body authorized to fix a form of government. The plan or form of government for this state as agreed upon by the convention held Feb. 28, 1778 and submitted to the people was rejected by a large majority, because no declaration of rights was attached to it. That it was not satisfactory to the citizens of Athol is evident by the action of the town meeting at which it was presented, when one hundred and one voters, voted not to accept it, and a committee of nine were chosen "to take into consideration and point out what amendments they think proper on the said form of government and report to the town."

In January, 1780, the existing Constitution was formed and submitted to the people who ratified it by a vote of more than two to one. A declaration of the Constitution was that "all men are born equal," and under this provision it was decided by the Supreme Court of the State that slavery was abolished. At the first state election under the Constitution Sept. 4, 1780, Athol's vote for governor was, John Hancock 39, and for lieutenant

governor, James Warren 19. In 1790 Athol's vote for governor was, John Hancock 29, Hon. James Bowdoin 9, and Hon. Nathaniel Gorham 6. In 1794 when the immortal Samuel Adams was chosen governor Athol did not cast a single vote for him, the vote for governor that year being Wm. Cushing 22, Samuel Phillips 17 and Francis Dana 12.

The insurrectionary movement known as the Shay's Rebellion which had its greatest following in the interior and western parts of the state does not seem to have been looked upon by the citizens of Athol with much favor. This is clearly shown in the action of Athol in the convention held at Boston in 1787 for the purpose of considering the proposed National Constitution, when the entire northern part of Worcester County with the exception of Athol voted against its adoption, assigning as a principal reason that too many of the rights of the citizens were not well guarded. As a general rule those towns and individuals who favored the Shays movement, opposed the Constitution, from the fear that there would be too much power in the central government.

It is interesting to note the part Athol has taken in the various political movements that have agitated the state and nation. At the first presidential election held Dec. 18, 1788, Abel Wilder Esq., and John Sprague, Esq., each received forty votes as candidates for electors of the president and vice president of the United States. A large majority of the voters of Athol were Federalists all through the early years of the century, and in 1800 when Caleb Strong, the renowned Federalist, who held the



office of governor longer than it was held by any other man, and is said to have been the man of the most decided character that has ever been at the head of the state, Athol's vote for governor was Hon. Caleb Strong 75 votes, and Hon. Elbridge Gerry 10. Governor Strong was defeated in 1808 by James Sullivan, a democrat.

The Federalists regained power again in 1809, when Christopher Gore was chosen governor, but in 1810 the Democrats were again successful, making Elbridge Gerry governor and re-electing him in 1811. All through these changes Athol was steadfast to the federalist cause, and in 1812 when a most vigorous and successful effort was made to "redeem" the state from the democrats, and Hon. Caleb Strong was again their leader, Athol rolled up her largest vote when Hon. Caleb Strong received 169 votes for governor and Hon. Elbridge Gerry 27.

In 1829 the voters of Athol and other towns in this section of the state were unusually agitated over the railroad question and broke away from all party allegiance. This was known as the anti-railroad election. Governor Lincoln who was in favor of a railroad line from Boston through Worcester and the southern part of the state to Albany was opposed by Hon. Samuel C. Allen of Greenfield, who was supported for governor by many of the towns in the northern part of the state. In 1828 Lincoln had received 66 votes in Athol against 26 for Hon. Marcus Morton, but at the election of 1828 Governor Lincoln received only two votes, Hon. Samuel Allen 142 and Marcus Morton seven. The following year Athol's vote was reversed, Allen receiving but two. Morton 41 and Lincoln 59.

During the ascendancy of the Whig party in Massachusetts, Athol was a Whig town, and in the famous Log Cabin campaign of 1840 when the great victory of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" was achieved, cast 233 votes for the Whig electors, 79 for the Democratic and 11 for the Free Soilers.

In the great political overturn in 1854 when the new American or Know Nothing party elected Henry J. Gardner as Governor and buried the old Whig party in Massachusetts so deep that it has never had a resurrection, Athol went overwhelmingly in favor of the new party, the vote for Governor being Henry J. Gardner 200, Emory Washburn 67, Henry Wilson 13 and Henry W. Bishop 20. The year before, Emory Washburn, the last of the Whig governors, received 146 votes, Henry Wilson 122 and Henry W. Bishop 63, but the Know Nothing candidate for representative to the Legislature, Josiah Haven, was elected after an exciting contest of two days, receiving on the last ballot but two votes more than the number necessary for election, it requiring a majority vote to elect at that time which rendered the representative contests, especially, very exciting.

From the formation of the Republican party in 1855 to the present time the vote of Athol, with a few exceptions, has been given to the candidates of that party for national and state officers. The state campaign of 1860 was a tremendous struggle, and the coming war loomed up on the political horizon. The Republican state convention had nominated John A. Andrew for governor, and against him was pitted Erasmus D. Beach, the old Dem-

ocratic war horse, the candidate of the Douglas faction of his party. Amos A. Lawrence was the nominee of the conservatives and Benjamin F. Butler of the Breckinridge, or ultra wing of the Democratic party. In this memorable election Athol gave the Republican presidential electors 347 votes, and all others 55. The vote for governor was John A. Andrew 338, Erasmus D. Beach 31, Amos A. Lawrence 13 and Benjamin F. Butler 10.

Seldom have political campaigns been fought that created such excitement and interest as always attended the State campaigns when Gen. Benjamin F. Butler was a candidate for Governor of Massachusetts. The very air seemed surcharged with political electricity, and it was said regarding Athol in those days, "that the politics of each child can be ascertained, even before the time of teething is gone by, for men, women and children talk politics." The vote of Athol for Governor in those memorable campaigns, was as follows: In 1878, Thomas Talbot 419, Benjamin F. Butler 407, Alonzo A. Miner 9. 1879, John D. Long 431, Benjamin F. Butler 428, John Q. Adams 4, Daniel C. Eddy 1. 1882, Benjamin F. Butler 422, Robert R. Bishop 409, Charles Almy 1. 1883, Geo. D. Robinson 549, Benjamin F. Butler 537, John F. Arnold 4, Charles Almy 4, John Q. Adams 1.

Some of the caucus gatherings held here, have attracted more than local interest. When Butler made his first attempt to secure the republican nomination for Governor in 1871, the Athol republicans engaged in a most exciting contest for the election of delegates to the State Convention. The caucus that was called to meet at the

Town Hall organized, and immediately after, the Washburn men, fearing that the caucus might be carried for Butler, adjourned to the High school building, where the officers of the caucus, with many others repaired. Delegates to the State Convention at Worcester were chosen at both places, the school house delegates being for Wm. B. Washburn, and the town hall delegates for Butler. Both delegations went to Worcester, and the Butler delegates were admitted to the convention, on the ground that they met at the place at which the caucus was called. The Butler delegates were Col. George H. Hoyt, A. M. Sawyer and Rev. C. L. McCurdy, then pastor of the Methodist church. The unsuccessful delegates were Dr. J. P. Lynde, Ozi Kendall and Hon. Charles Field.

*Representatives.* Athol was represented in the various Provincial Congresses as follows: William Bigelow was chosen to attend the Congress, to be holden at Concord, on the second Tuesday of October, 1774, and was also chosen as delegate to the Congress held at Cambridge Nov. 23, 1774. John Haven was chosen to represent the town in a Provincial Congress held at Watertown, May 31, 1775.

The first mention of a Representative to the Great and General Court, is in 1775, when Capt. John Haven is elected. The following are the Representatives since that time: Josiah Goddard, 1792, '95, '96, '98, '99, 1800; Lieut. Eleazer Graves, 1802, '04, '05, '17; James Humphrey, 1806, '09, '10, '11, '12, '13, '16, '21, '23, '25; Samuel Young, 1808; James Oliver, 1814, '15; Joseph Proctor, 1819; Dr. Ebenezer Chaplin, 1827, '29; Col. Sam-

uel Sweetzer, 1830, '44, '46; Eliphalet Thorpe, 1832; Col. Nathan Nickerson, 1833; Benjamin Estabrook, 1835, '36, '52. In 1837, two representatives were sent, Benjamin Estabrook and James Young, and in 1838, Benjamin Estabrook and Abner Young; Theodore Jones, 1840, '43, '45; John W. Humphrey, 1841, '42; Nathaniel Richardson, 1847; Lysander Fay, 1848; Stillman Simonds, 1850; Nehemiah Ward, 1851; Josiah Haven, 1854; Laban Morse, 1855; James I. Goulding, 1856; Charles Field, 1857. In 1857, Athol and Royalston were constituted as the Second Representative District of Worcester County, and remained so until 1877, being represented as follows:

Isaac Stevens of Athol, 1858, George Whitney of Royalston, 1859, Nathaniel Richardson of Athol, 1860, Elisha F. Brown of Royalston, 1861, Farwell F. Fay of Athol, 1862, Alpheus Harding, Jr., of Athol, 1863, Ebenezer W. Bullard of Royalston, 1864, Calvin Kelton of Athol, 1865, Wm. W. Clement of Royalston, 1866, Alpheus Harding, Jr., of Athol, 1867, Jeremiah A. Rich of Royalston, 1868, Thomas H. Goodspeed of Athol 1869, Benjamin H. Brown of Royalston, 1870, Ozi Kendall of Athol, 1871, Geo. H. Hoyt of Athol, 1872, '73, Jeremiah A. Rich of Royalston, 1874, Edwin Ellis of Athol, 1875, Wm. W. Fish of Athol, 1876.

Under the apportionment of 1876, Athol and Royalston constituted the Eighth Worcester District, and were represented as follows: Joseph Walker of Royalston, 1877, J. Sumner Parmenter of Athol 1878, Leander B. Morse of Athol 1879, Russell S. Horton of Athol, 1880, Ira Y. Kendall of Athol, 1881, Henry M. Humphrey of

Athol, 1882, Dr. Frank W. Adams of Royalston, 1883, C. Frederick Richardson of Athol, 1884, Washington H. Amsden of Athol, 1885, Benjamin W. Rich of Royalston, 1886.

Under the apportionment of 1886, based on the census of 1885, the towns of Athol, Royalston and Phillipston, were constituted the First Representative District of Worcester County, and have been represented as follows: Sidney P. Smith of Athol, 1887, '88, John D. Holbrook of Athol, 1889, C. Waldo Bates of Phillipston, 1890, Lucien Lord of Athol, 1891, Charles A. Crosman of Athol, 1892, Col. Geo. Whitney of Royalston, 1893, C. Waldo Bates of Phillipston, 1894, Harding R. Barber of Athol, 1895, '96

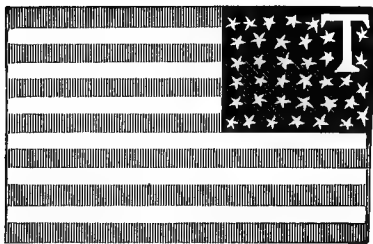
Athol has been represented in the Senate by James Humphrey in 1817 and '18, Benjamin Estabrook, 1843, Charles Field, 1858, '59, Alpheus Harding, 1879, '80, and Sidney P. Smith, 1891, '92. Lyman W. Hapgood was elected delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1853. Those who have been honored by their political parties as national delegates and electors are: Hon. Chas. Field, who was one of the Republican Presidential electors in 1860, Hon. Alpheus Harding, delegate to the National Republican Convention at Chicago in 1880, and Leander B. Morse, delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Chicago in 1884.

## CHAPTER VIII.

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### ATHOL IN THE REBELLION.

"But these are deeds which should not pass away,  
And names that must not wither."



THE NEWS of the thrilling events that were transpiring in the South, during the opening days of the Rebellion, as it came to the people of Athol, filled them with amazement and indignation.

When the telegraph wires flashed over the country the startling news that the brave sons of Massachusetts had been shot down in the streets of Baltimore, the excitement was intense, and the patriotic spirit of the days of the Revolution burned fresh and bright in the sons of Athol, as with enthusiasm they hoisted the stars and stripes from the buildings and over the streets, and gathered at the spirited meetings that were held in both villages.

On the evening of April 20th, 1861, at an immense meeting held in the Town Hall, stirring speeches were

made by the Orthodox and Unitarian clergymen, Isaac Stevens, Esq., Dr. J. P. Lynde, Principal Lathrop of the High School, Hon. Charles Field and others, counselling prompt and energetic action in support of the government, and to stand by the flag through all dangers and under all circumstances ; sentiments which were received with deep and tumultuous applause. A general illumination followed, of all the dwellings in both villages, making the night lighter than the day, while the streets were traversed by long processions, headed by the band playing national airs, until a late hour, and patriotism reigned supreme.

Vigorous measures were taken to form and equip a military company, and at a meeting held April 22nd, after brief addresses 26 volunteers, all young, active and brave, stepped forward and subscribed their names to the enlistment papers amidst a perfect shower of cheers.

The first Athol man to enlist and be mustered into the United States Service was Leander W. Phelps ; with him were fifteen young men who share with him the honor of standing at the head of the long list of Athol soldiers, and of being the first to start for the seat of war. Their names are: David E. Billings, J. B. Billings, Delevan Richardson, Hubbard V. Smith, Edward L. Townsend, Charles H. Hill, Charles S. Green, Columbus Fox, William L. Clutterbuck, Horace Hunt, William Nute, Frederic Cummings, John D. Emerson, Thomas Johnson and Aurin B. French. These were assigned to the Second Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, under command of Col. George H. Gordon. Two brothers, John F. Merrill and James L. Merrill, joined the Tenth Regiment, which left for the seat of war a few days after the Second. During



the summer 23 men joined the Twenty-first Regiment, most of whom were connected with Co. A, which was raised in Templeton, and was under command of Captain George P. Hawkes. A successful effort was made in September to recruit a company in Athol and vicinity, and in ten days from the time the list was opened for recruits, Mr. Adin W. Caswell had raised a full company of 101 men, mainly from the citizens of Athol, of which he was made captain.

The first day of the annual Cattle Show and Fair of that year, Oct. 4th, 1861, was made memorable as the date of the departure of the company for the encampment at Springfield, when a dinner was given the soldier boys on the Common at Athol; and the men were addressed from the balcony of the Summit House. Dr. James P. Lynde presided, and with words of encouragement and patriotism addressed the soldiers and immense audience assembled. A sword, sash, etc., were presented to Captain Caswell, Hon. Chas. Field making the presentation address. Capt. Caswell responded, and addresses were made by Hiram Woodward Esq., of Orange; James Brooks Esq., of Petersham; J. H. Goddard, editor of the "Barre Gazette"; Rev. I. S. Lincoln, of Warwick; Rev. A. Harding, of New Salem; Calvin Kelton Esq., Chairman of the Board of Selectmen; Rev. Ira Bailey and Rev. John F. Norton of Athol. A patriotic poem, prepared for the occasion, was read by Rev. D. J. Mandell of Athol. At the close of the exercises the company was escorted to the depot by the large assembly, the Athol High School Guard, under command of Principal Lathrop, with fifty mounted men of Athol, and nearly the same number from Royalston, doing

escort duty. The company left with the cheers and benedictions of the assembled multitude, and at Springfield were mustered into the United States Service as Co. B, of the Twenty-seventh Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers.

On Aug. 4th, 1862, President Lincoln issued an order for three hundred thousand men to serve for the term of nine months; the quota of Athol under this call was sixty-one men. Great enthusiasm was manifested while the enlisting for nine months service was going on, and many offered themselves who could not be accepted on account of physical disability. Farwell F. Fay Esq., of Athol, recruited this company, and was elected its captain. This company was assigned to the Fifty-third Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, and became Co. E of that regiment. They went into camp at Camp Stevens, Groton Junction, Oct. 1st, 1862, and left that place for New York Nov. 30th.

Athol had representatives in many other regiments, of this and other states, and always responded promptly to the various calls, and when the quota of the last call of Dec. 19, 1864, was filled, the Town had a surplus of 28 men to her credit.

The whole number furnished by the town was 387, and of this number 50 died in the service, or from diseases contracted in it. Fourteen were killed, or died of wounds received in action. Thirty-four died of various diseases. One was killed by the cars, and one thrown from a horse.

Among the early town meetings after the breaking out of the war, was one held April 30th, 1861, when upon the recommendation of a committee, consisting of C. C. Bassett, Hon. Charles Field, Nathaniel Richardson, Lyman

W. Hapgood and John Kendall, it was voted "that \$5000 be appropriated" for the purpose of encouraging men to volunteer for military service; and that ten dollars per month be given to each unmarried volunteer and twenty dollars to each married volunteer, in addition to the pay insured them by the laws of the United States. And, "if more be necessary to support the families of the married volunteers, the committee is to make up the deficiency."

And thus, all through the years of the war, the voters of Athol were ever ready to provide liberally for the soldiers who were fighting the battles of their country, and for their families left at home, and when the war closed, the total amount of expenses of the town and individual citizens had reached the sum of \$39,565.62.

One of the great war meetings was held at the Town Hall, July 2nd, 1864, when, by special invitation of many citizens, Geo. W. Horr Esq., delivered an address. The poster announcing the meeting called upon the citizens of Athol, both ladies and gentlemen, to meet at the Town Hall on that evening. "To consult together upon the state of the country—to review the heroic past—to act in the living present—to provide for the uncertain future—to make a united offering in aid of our struggling country."

The ladies of both villages organized Soldiers' Aid Societies, and all through the war were actively engaged in sending supplies and hospital stores for the comfort and relief of the brave defenders of the country.

#### ATHOL'S ROLL OF HONOR.

The following are Athol's soldiers, who died in the service or from diseases contracted in it:

Andrew J. Ames, private, was born at Brattleboro, Vermont; he enlisted at the age of 18 years in Company K, Twenty-seventh Regiment. He died of congestion of the lungs at Newbern, N. C., April 2nd, 1862, and was buried at Newbern.

Thomas G. Barry, private, was born in Leominster. He enlisted in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment; was in the engagement with his regiment at Roanoke Island. While at that Island he took a severe cold and, remaining sick, was discharged September 12, 1862. He returned to Athol, where he died October 18th, 1862, of the disease contracted at Roanoke Island.

Warren A. Beaman, private, was born in Millbury; he was drafted in July, 1863, and reported for service, when he was mustered into the Ninth Regiment, August 21, 1863, and joined the regiment in Virginia. In May, 1864, he was in the engagements when General Grant moved towards Richmond and is supposed to have been taken prisoner in the battle of the Wilderness, or about that time. He was carried to Andersonville, Georgia, and was in other rebel prisons; was sick of chronic diarrhœa at the time he was parolled for exchange at Charleston, S. C., in December, 1864. He was brought to Annapolis very low, and died there January 2nd, 1865. He left a wife and one child.

Harry R. Blackmer was born in Dana; enlisted as a private in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment, and joined the regiment in North Carolina in the fall of 1862. He was in the engagements at Kingston, Whitehall, Goldsboro, Gum Swamp, and at the siege of Washington, N. C. In October 1863, he came with his regiment to

Newport News, Va., and served with it in Norfolk and Portsmouth, having been promoted Corporal August 14, 1863. In January, 1864, he was taken with small-pox, of which he died Jan. 28th, at Norfolk, Va.

Eli Bodet, private, was born in Canada East; he enlisted in Company A, Thirty-second Regiment, and participated with his regiment in the marches of Porter's Corps in the retreat down the peninsula, and during the campaign in Maryland supported batteries at the battle of Antietam. He was taken sick with chronic diarrhoea and removed to a hospital in Washington. He was discharged Jan. 22, 1863, and, while being removed to his home, died in New York, Jan. 26, 1863. His remains were brought to Athol, and funeral services held at the Congregational church, Jan. 29, 1863. He left a wife and two children.

Francis B. Brock, private, was born in Dudley and enlisted in Company A, Twenty-fifth Regiment. He was with his regiment in the expedition of General Burnside to North Carolina and was a participant in the battles of Roanoke Island, Newbern, Kingston, Whitehall and Goldsboro, N. C., and in engagements in Virginia. In the battle of Coal Harbor, while engaged in a desperate but unsuccessful assault upon the enemy's works, he was killed June 3, 1864. His body lay upon the ground about a week before it could be reached by our troops, and buried.

George H. Clark, private, was born in Athol. He enlisted in Company F, Thirty-second Regiment, when only 16 years of age; was in the campaign in Maryland, at the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, and was in the thickest of the fight at Gettysburg

and in the battles in the Wilderness; he is supposed to have participated in 21 battles. Late in the year, 1864, he was taken sick with chronic diarrhœa, and died in Washington, Dec. 15, 1864, in which city he was buried.

Welcome J. Cleveland, private, was born in Barre; he enlisted in Company E, Fifty-third Regiment, at the age of 18 years, and went with his regiment to Louisiana. He was taken sick with the measles, and was three months in the hospital, but going into the first day's fight near Brashear City, the effort was too much for him, and he was taken worse and died at that place, April 24th, 1863. His remains were removed to New Orleans for burial.

Cyrus W. Conant, private, was born in Stowe; he enlisted in Company E, Fifty-third Regiment, and was with the regiment in its first engagements, but being taken sick at Vermillionville, La., he was taken to the hospital at New Orleans, where he died July 10, 1863, of chronic diarrhœa. He was buried at New Orleans.

James Connell, private, was born in Ireland; he enlisted in Company A, Thirty-second Regiment, and went with the regiment to Washington and Harrison's Landing, Va.; at the latter place he was taken sick and was removed to Philadelphia. After his recovery he did service with his regiment. In January, 1864, he reenlisted and came home on a furlough of 30 days. Returning to his regiment he was in the great battle of the Wilderness, and was instantly killed, not far from Spottsylvania Court House. He was shot in the morning and his remains lay upon the breast works until evening, when they were recovered and buried by his comrade, Ebenezer Kneeland, and others.

Joseph H. Collins, Color Sergeant, was born in Marlboro; he enlisted in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, and was with his regiment in the engagements at Roanoke Island, Newbern, Camden, and in the forced march to Pollocksville to rescue the Second Maryland Regiment; he was in the Bull Run battle, No. 2, in the battles of Chantilly and Antietam, and finally in the terrible contest at Fredericksburg, Dec. 12, 1862. He was Color Sergeant in the battle of Fredericksburg, and when about sixty rods from the city, was severely wounded in the leg and fell. This was when Sergeant Plunkett of Company E seized the colors, and, as he was bearing them forward, a shell from the rebel earth works carried away both of his arms. Mr. Collins was removed, with other wounded ones, to a hospital at Washington, where he died from the effects of his wound, Jan. 3, 1863. He was buried at Southboro, Mass., Jan. 12, 1863.

Marshall Collins, private, was born in Marlboro; he enlisted in Company E, Fifty-third Regiment, and was with his regiment at the capture of Fort Bisland, and in the long marches to Opelousas and Alexandria: was sent sick with chronic diarrhœa from before Port Hudson, June 6, 1863, to Baton Rouge, where he died July 14, 1863. He was buried at Baton Rouge, and left a wife and two children in Athol.

George S. Dresser, private, was born in Orange and enlisted at the age of 18 years in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment, in the fall of 1863. He was taken prisoner at Drury's Bluff, May 16, 1864, was removed to Libby Prison, Richmond, and then to Danville, where he was taken sick with lung fever. He was afterwards

carried to Andersonville, Ga., where it is supposed he died in the summer or fall of 1864.

Theodore Jones Dyer, private, was born in Athol; he enlisted in Company I, Twenty-fifth Regiment, and assisted in the captures of Roanoke Island and Newbern, and was with his regiment in all its engagements and expeditions in North Carolina; he went with his regiment to Virginia, and was probably in the battles at Drury's Bluff and Coal Harbor, but during the siege of Petersburg he was taken sick and died near that city Sept. 19, 1864.

Daniel W. Foster, private, was born in Phillipston; he enlisted in Company D, Thirty-sixth Regiment, and was with his regiment in Maryland and Virginia. He was taken sick with an intermittent fever on board the Transport, "South America," in Chesapeake Bay; was landed at Newport News, and died in the hospital there Feb. 14, 1863. His remains were brought to Athol, and funeral services were held Feb. 26, 1863.

Jacob Orlando Gould was born in Athol. He enlisted in Company E, Fifty-third Regiment, and was made Corporal May 1, 1863; was with his regiment in the fight of Fort Bisland, and in the long marches to Opelousas and Alexandria. He died at Baton Rouge, July 27, 1863, of chronic diarrhœa.

Charles S. Green, private, was born in Oakham. He was one of the first young men to enlist, from Athol, in Company F, Second Regiment. He was with his regiment on the Upper Potomac and in the Shenandoah Valley. Early in December, 1862, he was taken sick with brain fever, and died at Frederick City, Maryland, on the 20th of that month. His remains were sent home to his friends.



Charles E. Hagar, private, was born in Athol. He enlisted in Company A, Twenty first Regiment, and was with the regiment in the engagements in North Carolina. He was thrown from a horse in Alexandria, Va., and killed.

James Harkins, Jr., private, was born in Ireland. He went into the service first as a member of the First New York Mounted Riflemen. He was taken prisoner in North Carolina, and taken to Richmond; after a few months was exchanged, and, his time of service having expired, was discharged. Jan. 1, 1864, he enlisted in the Thirty-first Regiment, but was transferred to the Sixth Massachusetts Cavalry, and went with General Banks on the Red River expedition. In a desperate engagement he was again taken prisoner and carried to Texas; he escaped and made his way back through swamps and thickets to Louisiana, but was soon taken sick with rheumatic fever, and died at New Orleans, August 30, 1864.

William Hill, private, was born in Athol. He enlisted in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment; in the engagement at Roanoke Island, Feb. 8, 1862, he was mortally wounded by a ball that passed through him and lodged in his overcoat, and died two days after, being the first man from Athol who was killed in the war. He was buried at Roanoke Island, and left two sons in service and two daughters in Athol.

Andrew J. Hill, private, was born in Athol, a son of William Hill. He enlisted in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, and was in the engagement at the capture of Roanoke Island. While standing in the water during the battle he took a severe cold that brought on a fever, from

which he died March 3, 1862. He was buried at Roanoke Island.

James S. Hodge, drummer, was born in Athol. He enlisted in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment, and was with his company in the various engagements in North Carolina. While on a furlough to visit his family in Athol he was killed by the cars, at Springfield, Sept. 20, 1863.

John W. Howe, private, enlisted in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment, and was taken prisoner at Drury's Bluff from whence he was carried to Richmond, and finally to Andersonville, Ga., where he died of chronic diarrhoea July 24, 1864. He left a wife in Athol.

John Humphrey was born in Athol. He joined the United States Navy in the summer of 1861, going first on board the receiving ship at Charlestown; he was afterwards a marine on board the Cumberland when that ill fated vessel was attacked by the rebel ship, Merrimac, near Newport News, Va., March 8, 1862, and was one of the six marines who were killed by a shot before the sinking of the Cumberland. His remains were not recovered.

Horace Hunt, private, was born in Prescott. He was among the first men to enlist from Athol in the Second Regiment; was clerk for his captain, and afterwards in the Commissary Department. While with his regiment in New York, to suppress riots, he took a severe cold, and going with the regiment to Tullahoma, Tenn., he was taken sick and returned to his home in Athol very feeble, where he died April 7, 1864. Funeral services were held at the Baptist church.

William H. Johnson, private, was born in Athol. He enlisted in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, and while participating in the battle of Newbern fell, mortally wounded, dying the next day, March 15, 1862. His remains were buried at Newbern.

C. Dwight Kelton, son of Calvin Kelton Esq., was born in Athol. He enlisted in Company F, Thirty-second Regiment, and went with it to Washington and Harrison's Landing, Va., and to Maryland when the rebels invaded that State. He was taken sick at Alexandria, Va., of pneumonia, and died there Oct. 31, 1862. His remains were brought to Athol for burial, and the funeral was held in the Congregational church, Nov. 11, 1862.

Patrick Leonard was born in Ireland. He enlisted in Company C, Twenty-first Regiment. He went with his regiment to North Carolina; was wounded very severely in the right leg at the battle of Roanoke Island, from the effects of which he died, eight days after, and was buried on the island.

Horatio W. McClellen was born in Athol; he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment, when 18 years of age; was in the Kinsgton, Whitehall and Goldsboro fights and participated in the defence of Washington, N. C., and the Gum Swamp engagement. He was made Corporal June 19, 1863. He was wounded at Arrowfield Church, Va., May 9, 1864, and was removed to Philadelphia, where he died of scarlatina, June 21, 1864.

Adin Oakes was born in Athol. He enlisted in Company E, Fifty-third Regiment, and took part in the capture of Fort Bisland, in the marches to and from Alexandria, and in the first engagement at Port Hudson; he was

wounded at the latter place, May 29, 1863, and sent to the hospital at Baton Rouge, where he died June 29, 1863. He was buried at Baton Rouge, and left a wife and children in Athol.

Sylvanus E. Oliver was born in Athol. He enlisted in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment. He was with his regiment in the various engagements in North Carolina, and in the desperate battle of Drury's Bluff, May 16, 1864, where he was taken prisoner with 247 others of his regiment, and carried to Libby Prison, Richmond, afterwards to Andersonville, Ga., where he died of chronic diarrhœa Aug. 14, 1864.

James C. Parker was born in Stickney, C. E.; he enlisted in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, and went with his regiment to North Carolina. In the battle of Newbern he was in the thickest of the fight and was mortally wounded, dying the next day, March 15, 1862. He was buried at Newbern, leaving a wife and three children in Athol.

Chauncey Parkman Jr., was born in Northfield. He enlisted in the First Heavy Artillery, and went with his company into service in Virginia, and was in the battle at Spottsylvania, May 17, 1864, when he was fatally wounded by a shell in the head and side, and was removed with the wounded to Washington, where he died June 3, 1864. He was buried at Washington, and left one child in Athol.

Asa Phillips was born in Hubbardston. He enlisted in Company E, Thirtieth Regiment, and started for the seat of war under General Butler, but died at or near Fortress Monroe, Jan. 30, 1862. His remains were brought to Athol for burial, where he left a wife and children.

Joshua Rich was born in Royalston; he enlisted in Company H, Thirty-sixth Regiment, and went with his regiment into service in Virginia, and accompanied it to Mississippi. He was killed in the battle of the Wilderness, May 6, 1864, a ball passing through his body from side to side, and he lived but three hours, his remains falling into the hands of the enemy. He was made Corporal April 1, 1863.

Samuel Rich was born in Athol; he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment, and was with the regiment nearly three years in North Carolina and Virginia. At the battle of Drury's Bluff he was taken prisoner, and died at Andersonville, Ga., of Chronic diarrhœa, caused by starvation and cruel treatment about Aug. 1, 1864.

Neri F. Ripley was born in Tinmouth, Vt.; he enlisted in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, and was with his regiment in North Carolina. He died at Winchendon, Jan. 16, 1863, of an abscess in the stomach, brought on in the service. His remains were brought to Athol for burial.

Harvey Robbins was born in Warwick; he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment, and joined the regiment in North Carolina in 1862. He was taken sick and died of a fever, at Newbern, June 23, 1863. He left a wife and four children in Athol.

Cutler Seaver was born in Milford; he enlisted when 17 years old in the Forty-second Regiment and went to Great Falls, Maryland, where he did garrison duty till the term for which he had enlisted expired. He reentered the service, and while in camp at Readville, was taken sick and died.

Spencer Stockwell was born in Athol; he enlisted in Company E, Fifty-third Regiment, and went into camp at Groton Junction, where he was taken sick with diptheria, and died Nov. 20, 1862. His remains were brought to Athol for burial.

Horace O. Thayer was born in Ware; he enlisted in Company B, Fifty-sixth Regiment, and went into camp at Readville in the fall of 1863, but before the regiment left for the seat of war was taken sick of brain fever, and died Feb. 2, 1864.

Lauriston A. Thorpe was born in Athol; he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment, and went with his regiment to North Carolina, and after taking part in the battles at Roanoke Island, Newbern, and other places, he was sent to the hospital sick; after recovering he served in various departments of the hospital until the period of his enlistment expired, when he started for home, but the vessel upon which he embarked was sent into quarantine at Fortress Monroe, on account of the prevalence of yellow fever, and Mr. Thorpe died at that place, of the disease, Oct. 7, 1864. His remains were brought to Athol, and funeral services were held at the Methodist church, Oct. 23.

Robert W. Thrower was born in Athol; he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment; was in the battle of Roanoke Island, but was sick on board a transport at the battle of Newbern, and was landed at that place, where he died of lung fever, March 31, 1862. He was buried at Newbern.

Nathaniel B. Twichell was born in Erving; he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment, and was in va-

rious engagements in North Carolina ; was made Corporal Feb. 20, 1863. He reenlisted in January, 1864, and after a furlough, returned to his regiment and was killed in the engagement at Arrowfield Church by a ball that struck his head, killing him instantly, May 9, 1864. He left a wife and two children in Athol.

Willard Twichell was born in Athol ; he enlisted in Company D, Eleventh U. S. Infantry, early in the war, and was in six of the seven days' conflicts before Richmond in 1862, also at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania and North Anna, and was fatally wounded in the engagement before Petersburg, June 24, 1864.

William Washburn was born in Orange ; he enlisted in Company D, Thirty-sixth Regiment, and was with his regiment at the siege of Vicksburg. After the surrender of Vicksburg he returned with his regiment to Kentucky, where he was sick with dumb ague, and died near Nicholasville, Ky., Sept. 5, 1863. He left a wife and five children in Athol.

Edmund R. West enlisted in Company A, Twenty-fourth Regiment, and is supposed to have died a prisoner at Andersonville, Ga., May 24, 1864.

Chandler Whitney was born in Royalston ; he enlisted in Company E, Thirtieth Regiment, and died in camp at Pittsfield, Mass., Feb. 1, 1862, after an illness of three weeks.

Nelson G. Wood was born in Royalston ; he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment, and was with his regiment in various engagements in North Carolina

and Virginia, and was instantly killed in the conflict at Arrowfield Church, May 9, 1864. He was buried near the battlefield.

George B. Wood was born in Shutesbury; he enlisted in Company E, Fifty-third Regiment; was taken sick while his regiment was at New York, and was removed to Shutesbury, where he died Jan. 2, 1863, the day after his discharge from the service.

Asa Wyman was born in Winchendon; he enlisted in Company K, Thirty-sixth Regiment, and went with his regiment to Virginia, and along the Mississippi. Was sent in the sick boat up the river and removed to Annapolis, where he died of a fever and chronic diarrhœa May 3, 1864.

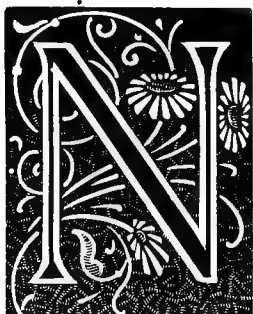


## CHAPTER IX.

### EDUCATIONAL.

"Yet, on her rocks, and on her sands,  
And wintry hills, the school-house stands,  
And what her rugged soil denies,  
The harvest of the mind supplies.

The riches of the Commonwealth,  
Are free, strong minds, and hearts of health;  
And more to her than gold or grain.  
The cunning hand and cultured brain."



EXT TO liberty and religion, education was the object nearest to the hearts of the fathers of New England, and consequently we find in the settlement of all these towns that the school house soon followed the church. Of the original grant of the township, one sixty-third part was reserved and forever set apart "for the support of a school." The Proprietors records give no information regarding schools or teachers, but undoubtedly there were schools formed within six or seven years after the first settlement, and probably as in the early history of many other towns, schools were first held in private houses.

The first public provision made for schools after the incorporation of the town, was at a town meeting, March 7, 1763, when it was voted to raise thirteen pounds, six shillings, eight pence, "to provide a school," and "to di-

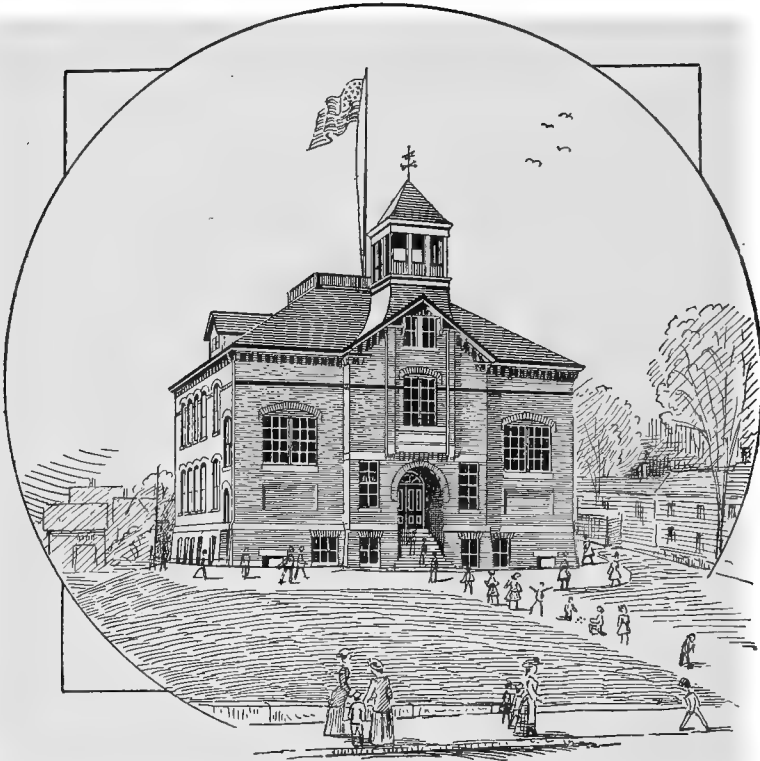
vide the school money by the river, and those that live on the south side to have what they pay towards the sum raised; and those that live on the north side to have what they pay toward the said sum." Nathan Goddard, Jesse Kendall and John Oliver were chosen a committee to hire a school-master. The town voted March 3, 1766, "to build two school houses, one on the West Hill, between Deacon Aaron Smith's and Ichabod Dexter's, the other on the East Hill, [now known as the "Street,"] at the head of Capt. Field's lane, so-called; and the above houses are to be built sixteen feet wide, and eighteen feet long, and six feet and a half stud." In May of the same year, it was "voted to raise twenty-six pounds, thirteen shillings, four pence, to build these school houses, and that men should be allowed to work out their raits on the school-houses at two shillings and four pence per day, under the direction of the committee chosen for that purpose, by the first day of November next." These were probably the first school houses of Athol, and were doubtless built of logs and furnished in the most primitive style. As other portions of the town became settled, new schools were opened, and in 1770, the town voted to have four additional schools, "one at the north end of Meeting-house hill; one in the east part of the town; one at the south-west part, and one on Chestnut Hill, and each part to enjoy the benefit of the money they pay for schooling."

In 1774, the town was divided into school districts, or "squadarns," as they were termed, of which there were six, two on the north side of Millers river, Tully east branch being the dividing line of these two, while the south side

of the river was divided into four. The work of providing school masters for these six schools, must have been one of great responsibility. For some years a committee of thirty was appointed for this purpose; this number by 1796, had become reduced to seven, which thenceforth was the usual number chosen until the State law of 1826 was passed, requiring towns to choose three, five or seven School Committeemen, since which time the town has chosen a School Committee of three, until 1893, when the number was increased to six. The first General School Committee was chosen in 1829, and consisted of Rev. Joseph Estabrook, Horatio Willard and Abel Sweetzer.

In 1772, it was voted to allow Jesse Kendall five shillings for going to Salem, to provide a school master. Among the early school masters and dames whose names appear on the town records are; Joshua Poor, who was paid one pound for keeping school in 1776; one pound thirteen shillings, four pence, was also paid to John Ballard for his sons keeping school. Among the bills paid in 1777, was one of fifteen shillings to Nathaniel Babbitt for keeping school; Nehemiah Ward received three pounds, twelve shillings, and Paul Church received five pounds, four shillings, for his wife keeping school, also the wife of Capt. John Oliver received five shillings, ten pence. All through the Revolution, liberal appropriations were made for the schools, and in 1793, the sum of seventy pounds was granted for schooling. In 1795, in addition to seventy pounds for schooling, twelve pounds was also granted for the use of a singing school, and an appropriation for this purpose was regularly made for some years,

James Oliver being named quite frequently as the agent to lay out said money. From 1819, for a period of ten years, \$550 a year was raised for schools, and in 1850, the sum of \$1600 was raised. In 1860, there were 540 children of school age, and the amount expended on the



MAIN STREET SCHOOL.

schools was \$2,518.45. In 1870, the total expenditure for schools was \$8,176.93, and in 1895, it was \$19,894.78. In 1889, the town became awakened to the need of better school buildings, and under the lead of some of the pro-

gressive citizens of both villages, a sentiment was aroused that has resulted in our present beautiful, and well furnished school houses. The first to be erected was the Main street building in 1889; this was followed the next year by the Highland school house; in 1892, the High school building, and in 1894, the one at Lake Park, making within five years' time, more than \$75,000 expended in new school houses.



LAKE PARK SCHOOL.

The town first employed a Superintendent of Schools in 1870, when Dr. J. P. Lynde was engaged at a salary of \$450. He held that position for three years. In 1874, the School Committee, in accordance with a vote of the town, procured the services of Virgil M. Howard of Deerfield, as Principal of the High school, and Superintendent of schools. He received for the former, a salary of \$1000,

and for the latter, \$500. He held the position for two years, from which time, no Superintendent was employed until April 1, 1893, when Miss Flora E. Kendall was elected Superintendent of Schools, which position she holds at the present time.



HIGHLAND SCHOOL.

Miss Kendall is a native of Montague, and received her early education in the schools of that town, together with a course under private instruction; this was supplemented by a course at Wellesley College, and at a

school of oratory in Boston. She believes that however much one may have been in the schools, that education is never completed, and much of the time of her summer vacations is spent at summer schools. She began teaching in the district schools of Ashby, Mass., and worked her way up through the different grades to the High School. While a teacher in the schools of Leominster, she was elected in 1890, Superintendent of the schools of the Princeton district, which includes the towns of Princeton, Westminster and Sterling, with twenty-eight schools, and held the position for three years. Miss Kendall's work in the Athol schools has been highly commended by prominent educators, and she receives frequent calls to address Teachers' Institutes and various educational gatherings.

The following persons have served the town as members of the School Committee :

1829, Rev. Joseph Estabrook, Horatio Willard, Abel Sweetzer.

1830, Rev. Joseph Estabrook, Dea. Elijah Ballard, Emerson Fay.

1831, Rev. Josiah Moore, Wm. H. Williams, Capt. Adin Holbrook.

1832, Rev. Josiah Moore, Rev. B. B. Beckwith, Wm. H. Williams.

1833, Dr. Geo. Hoyt, Rev. B. B. Beckwith, Rev. Lysander Fay.

1834, Rev. Linus H. Shaw, Rev. B. B. Beckwith, Rev. Ambrose Day.

1835, Rev. Wm. Warner, Dr. Geo. Hoyt, Col. Samuel Sweetzer.

1836, Rev. Linus H. Shaw, Rev. Wm. Warner, Rev. J. Glazier.

1837, Dr. Geo. Hoyt, Col. Samuel Sweetzer, Rev. Wm. Warner, Lincoln B. Knowlton.

1838, Rev. Lysander Fay, Rev. Mr. Smith, Benj. Estabrook.

1840, Rev. R. M. Chipman, Rev. Stephen A. Barnard, Rev. Asaph Merriam.

1841, Rev. R. M. Chipman, Rev. Asaph Merriam, Dr. Geo. Hoyt.

1842, Benjamin Estabrook, Chas. Field, Samuel Sweetzer.

1843, Rev. R. M. Chipman, Rev. Crawford Nightingale, Rev. Asaph Merriam.

1844, Rev. R. M. Chipman, Rev. Crawford Nightingale, Rev. Asaph Merriam.

1845, Dr. Geo. Hoyt, Benjamin Estabrook, Daniel Heywood.

1846, Rev. Richard M. Chipman, Rev. Asaph Merriam, Isaac Stevens.

1847, Dr. Geo. Hoyt, Benjamin Estabrook, Elbridge G. Wood.

1848, Rev. R. M. Chipman, Rev. Samuel F. Clark, Dr. Geo. Hoyt.

1849, Rev. R. M. Chipman, Rev. Samuel F. Clark, Dr. Geo. Hoyt.

1850, Dr. Geo. D. Colony, Benjamin Estabrook, Rev. Oren Tracy.

1851, H. W. Carter, Dr. Geo. D. Colony, Lyman W. Hapgood.

1852, Dr. Geo. D. Colony, H. W. Carter, Lyman W. Hapgood.

1853, Rev. S. F. Clarke, Lyman W. Hapgood, Dr. Geo. D. Colony.

1854, Dr. Geo. D. Colony, Lyman W. Hapgood, Rev. Lysander Fay.

1855, Rev. Lysander Fay, Daniel Davis, G. Rice.

1856, Rev. John F. Norton, Rev. Nathaniel H. Martin, Dr. Geo. D. Colony.

1857, Rev. John F. Norton, Dr. Geo. D. Colony, C. B. Swan.

1858, Rev. John F. Norton, Dr. Geo. D. Colony, Rev. D. C. O'Daniels.

1859, Rev. John F. Norton, Dr. Geo. D. Colony, L. W. Hapgood.

1860, Rev. John F. Norton, L. W. Hapgood, F. F. Fay.

1861, L. W. Hapgood, Rev. I. B. Bigelow, J. B. Gould.

1862, Rev. John F. Norton, Rev. Ira Bailey, James Coolidge.

1863, Rev. John F. Norton, Rev. Ira Bailey, Rev. Charles Ayer.

1864, Dr. J. P. Lynde, S. E. Fay, Edwin Ellis.

1865, Dr. J. P. Lynde, S. E. Fay, Rev. Geo. L. Hunt.

1866, Dr. J. P. Lynde, Rev. Geo. L. Hunt.

1867, Dr. J. P. Lynde, Edwin Ellis, S. E. Fay.

1868, T. H. Goodspeed, Rev. Temple Cutler, Rev. D. H. Stoddard.

1869, Rev. Ira Bailey, Benj. Estabrook, Jennie L. Case.

1870, W. H. Amsden, F. G. Lord.

1871, W. H. Amsden, F. G. Lord, S. M. Osgood.

1872, A. G. Stratton, Edwin Ellis.

1873, Rev. W. S. Burton, Geo. W. Horr, H. A. Stearns.

1874, E. F. Brown, S. M. Osgood, Edwin Ellis.

1875, E. F. Brown, S. M. Osgood, Edwin Ellis.

1876, H. M. Humphrey, E. A. Thomas, S. M. Osgood.

1877, H. M. Humphrey, Rev. E. M. Bartlett, Fred Allen.



- 1878, H. M. Humphrey, Rev. E. M. Bartlett, Fred Allen.  
 1879, H. M. Humphrey, Rev. E. M. Bartlett, Fred Allen.  
 1880, L. B. Caswell, Fred Allen, Rev. E. M. Bartlett.  
 1881, L. B. Caswell, Dr. James Oliver, E. V. Wilson.  
 1882, L. B. Caswell, Dr. James Oliver, Rev. J. H. Cox.  
 1883, L. B. Caswell, Dr. James Oliver, Rev. J. H. Cox.  
 1884, L. B. Caswell, Sidney P. Smith, Rev. J. H. Cox.  
 1885, L. B. Caswell, Sidney P. Smith, A. J. Nye.  
 1886, L. B. Caswell, Sidney P. Smith, A. J. Nye.  
 1887, L. B. Caswell, A. J. Nye, E. V. Wilson.  
 1888, L. B. Caswell, E. V. Wilson, Rev. F. B. Knowlton.  
 1889, E. V. Wilson, Rev. F. B. Knowlton, Ellen M. Bigelow.  
 1890, Rev. F. B. Knowlton, Ellen M. Bigelow, E. V. Wilson.  
 1891, Ellen M. Bigelow, E. V. Wilson, Chas. A. Chapman.  
 1892, E. V. Wilson, Chas. A. Chapman, Ellen M. Bigelow.  
 1893, Chas. A. Chapman, Ellen M. Bigelow, Lucien Lord, Dr. James Oliver, Geo. D. Bates, W. D. Luey.  
 1894, Chas. A. Chapman, Ellen M. Bigelow, Lucien Lord, Dr. James Oliver, Geo. D. Bates, W. D. Luey.  
 1895, Chas. A. Chapman, Ellen M. Bigelow, Lucien Lord, Dr. James Oliver, Geo. D. Bates, W. D. Luey.

Charles A. Chapman was born in Springfield, Mass., in 1848, where he attended the public schools until he was fifteen years of age. The last year of his school life he worked in a store, before and after school hours, on Saturdays and during vacations, and when eighteen years of age, received the position of confidential clerk and first book-keeper in the firm, which was doing the largest wholesale and retail grocery business in Springfield. After three years of this work, his health failed, and he was obliged to give up the position for one that would take him out of doors more. In 1868, he was elected teller of the Lee National and Savings Banks, where he remained until 1874, when he was chosen cashier of the Athol National Bank, then just organized, which position he still occupies.

Mr. Chapman has been prominently identified with the Congregational church of Athol, of which he has been a member since his residence in this town. He has been treasurer of the church for ten years, of the parish four years, and has led the singing for eighteen years, and was Superintendent of the Sunday school for six years. In 1891, he was elected a member of the School Committee, which office he now holds, and has also served the town on important committees. He was married October 13, 1875, to Miss Frances A. Rowland of Springfield, the daughter of a prominent business man and citizen of that city, who was one of the first members and organizers of the Republican party, and was noted for his strong anti-slavery principles. They have one daughter.

Wm. D. Luey was born in Deerfield, Mass., April 6, 1855. He attended the lower grade schools of his native town, and the Greenfield High school. After leaving school he worked in a store for a year, and then became clerk in the Franklin County National Bank of Greenfield, and was with that institution and the Packard National Bank for six years, when he went to the Conway National Bank, where he was cashier for a year and a half, and came to Athol in May, 1881, to take the position of cashier of the Millers River National Bank, which position he has held to the present time. He was elected a member of the School Committee in 1893, and is also one of the Sewer Commissioners. He is prominently identified with the Second Unitarian Society, and is the collector and a member of its executive committee; interested in the social life of the town, he was one of



CHARLES A. CHAPMAN.



F. C. AVERY.



ELLEN M. BIGELOW.



FLORA E. KENDELL.



the organizers of the Poquaig Club, and is also a member of the Masonic fraternity. In September 1880, he married Emma C. Allen of Greenfield; they have four boys.

Among those who have been teachers in the schools of Athol are: Wm. La Roy Haven, now Superintendent of the schools of Morristown, N. J., Hon. Samuel C. Gale of Minneapolis, Minn., Col. Lyman A. White, of Chicago, Hon. Henry H. Sprague of Boston, Hon. Joel D. Miller, Leominster, Frederic E. Stratton, Ph. D., of Carleton College, Minnesota, Hon. Percival Blodgett of Templeton, the late Capt. Farwell F. Fay, Beriah W. Fay of New Salem, Geo. S. Cheney, Boston, Horace Mann, Petersham, Wilson Smith, Phillipston, Dr. James Oliver and Prof. Harlan P. Townsend.

In selecting a few teachers of whom to give brief sketches, we have taken those who have been connected with our schools for the longest time during the last twenty-five years. The teacher best known to the people of Athol, and who numbers among her former pupils members of almost every family who has resided in town any length of time, is Miss Ellen M. Bigelow, now teacher of the Grammar school. Miss Bigelow is a native of Phillipston; she commenced her first school in the Fryville district in the summer term of 1856, and for forty years, with the exception of a few terms, has been a popular teacher in the Athol schools, having had charge of the Grammar school for more than twenty years. She has taken an active interest in the educational work of the town aside from her duties in the school room, and in 1889 was

elected a member of the School Committee, which position she now holds; she has also been a member of the Public Library committee for the last ten years.

Susie F. Drury was born in Royalston, and educated in the public schools of that town. She is a graduate of the Westfield Normal school, and was a teacher in the Athol schools for ten years, eight years of which time she was in the Advanced Primary and Intermediate grades, where she proved one of the most successful teachers of the town. After leaving the Athol schools in 1887, she was a teacher in the Gardner schools for two and a half years, when she took a position in the schools of Everett, Mass., and in the summer of 1893, was elected Principal of the Devens school building in that city, which position she now holds, having charge of more than four hundred pupils.

Ida E. Carruth is a native of Petersham. She attended the public schools of that town and the Highland Institute, also Barre Academy in Barre, Mass., and commenced teaching in Dana, where she remained one year, when she came to Athol, and was a teacher for eleven years in the Advanced Intermediate school at the Lower Village. After leaving Athol in 1888, she was a teacher in the schools of Orange nearly three years, when she took a position in the Brockton schools, which she now holds,

Nettie A. Doane was born in Boston, and attended the schools of that city and the Templeton High school. She taught her first school in Phillipston, and commenced teaching in the Athol schools in 1869, where she remained continuously for twenty-six years as a teacher in the



FREDERIC E. STRATTON.



HARLAN P. TOWNSEND.



SUSIE F. DRURY.



IDA E. CARRUTH.





Primary grade, resigning in 1895, to accept a position in the schools of Melrose, Mass.

Miss Nellie E. Clark came from Winchendon, where she had already attained an excellent reputation as an instructor and disciplinarian in 1872, and took charge of the Advanced Intermediate school at the Upper Village, where she has remained to the present time, giving general satisfaction to the committee and parents for nearly a quarter of a century.

Clara Jackson commenced teaching in the Athol schools in 1883, and has taught continuously to the present time, now having charge of one of the Lake Park schools.

Minerva K. Pitts was a teacher from 1881 to 1891, most of the time in the Advanced Primary grade at the Highlands.

Harlan P. Townsend, who has been connected with the schools at different times, and has also attained distinction as a teacher of elocution in various institutions of the country, was born in Athol May 26, 1844. He attended the Athol schools, and graduated from the High school, of which for a short time he was assistant teacher. In September, 1862, he enlisted in the 53d Mass. Regt. of Volunteers, and was with his regiment during its time of service. After returning from the war, he taught schools in Phillipston, Warwick, Fitzwilliam, N. H., and Athol. In 1870 he resigned his position in the Athol schools to become first assistant in Trenton Academy, Trenton, N. J. In 1873 he went to the National school of Elocution and Oratory in Philadelphia, where he graduated in 1874, and soon accepted a position in Marietta College, Ohio. After

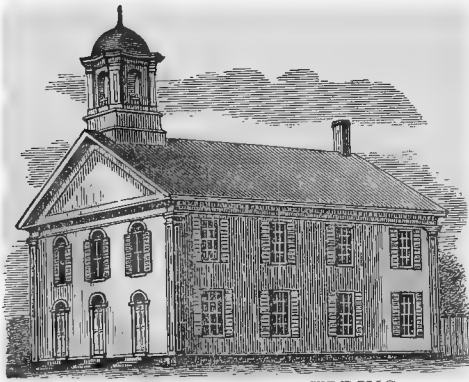
a few months in that institution, he went to the Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio, as teacher of elocution, and while there was also one of the teachers in the Conservatory of Music of the Western Female Seminary. Poor health compelled him to resign his position in those institutions. He studied for two or three years with Prof. James S. Murdock, the celebrated actor and Shakesperian reader, and in 1887 was called to the National School of Oratory at Philadelphia, to have charge of the department of voice culture and expression reading. He has also been a teacher of elocution in various other institutions, but for the last number of years his health has not permitted him to take any permanent position.

### THE HIGH SCHOOL.

One of the most prolific sources of controversy between the citizens of many New England towns arises when the locations of public buildings are to be decided, and Athol passed through one of these experiences in 1856, when the town had attained the number of families which made it necessary to establish a High school. In the March meeting warrant of that year was an article relative to the establishment of a High school, and then occurred that memorable struggle between the two villages in regard to the site for the building ; meeting after meeting was held, and the excitement ran high, even to such an extent as to break up long and intimate friendships, and endanger the ties of church membership. Finally the present location was selected, and a High school building was erected that did service for thirty-five years. This gave place in 1892

too the present fine building that was built at a cost of \$25,000, and was dedicated on Labor Day, Sept. 5, of that year, when Rev. A. E. Winship delivered an eloquent address before a large audience upon "The Mission of the High school."

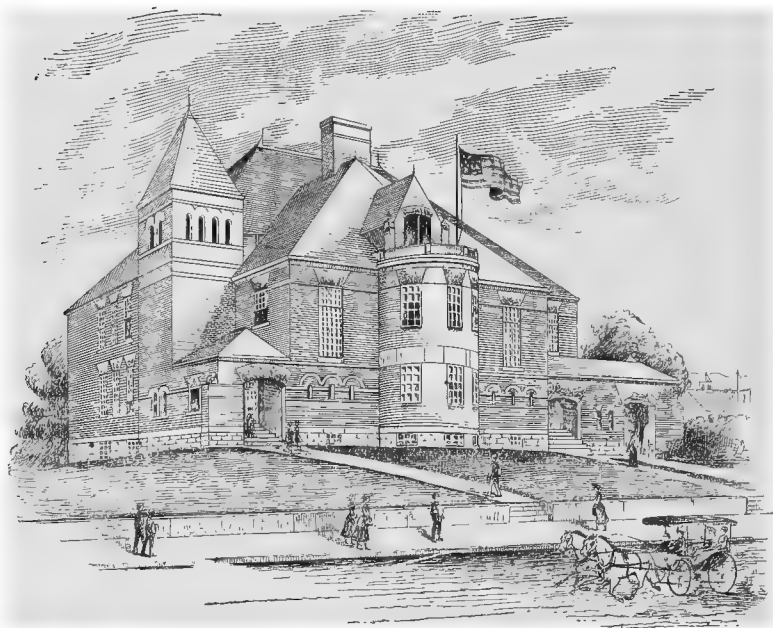
The first term of the High school was held in the spring of 1857, with Geo. A. Wheeler of Topsham, Me., a graduate of Bowdoin College, as the teacher. The salaries of the teachers of the school for the first year amounted to \$543, and the largest number of scholars during any one term was ninety-three. During the first year of the



OLD HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

school some of the older scholars assisted the Principal in hearing recitations, and among those whose names are mentioned in this connection, in the school reports, are Henry H. Sprague, Henry M. Humphrey, Horace Mann and James Oliver, Jr.; also during the year 1858, each member of the school committee frequently instructed some of the classes in the recitation room. The first to be engaged as a regular assistant was H. H. Sprague, who in 1858 received a salary of \$16 per month for his services. There was no regular course of study until 1873, when a graded system of schools for the town was completed, and a three years course of study established for the High school, the School

Committee at that time being, Rev. W. S. Burton, Geo. W. Horr, Esq., and Henry A. Stearns. The first class to graduate from the school with this course of study was the class of 1876, consisting of nine members. This course was continued until 1882, when the School Committee, consisting of L. B. Caswell, Dr. James Oliver and Rev. J. H. Cox, with the Principal of the school, Mr. B. F.



HIGH SCHOOL.

Brown, arranged a four years course of study, and in 1883, the first class to complete a four years course graduated with honor to themselves and the school. This course was continued for only a few years, as the people evidently were not ready for the change, and again the classes were graduated in three years time. In 1892 the

present courses of study, consisting of classical, literary and general courses of four years, and an English course of three years were adopted.

During the forty years existence of the school there have been thirty-one Principals, those serving the longest being, Sidney P. Smith, who taught eleven terms, and L. McL. Jackson and W. H. Terrill, each of whom held the position nine terms.

The following list contains the names of those who have held the position of Principals of the High school, and the year in which they served :

- Mr. Geo. A. Wheeler of Topsham, Me., 1857.
- Mr. Farwell Fay of New Salem, 1857.
- Mr. D. D. Leavitt of Grantham, N. H., 1857, 1859.
- Mr. H. Toothaker of Holden, Me., 1858, 1859.
- Mr. Geo. B. Towle of Saco, Me., 1860.
- Mr. A. J. Lathrop of Watertown, 1861.
- Mr. L. S. Burbank of Lancaster, 1862, 1863.
- Mr. Francis E. Tower of Petersham, 1864.
- Mr. H. E. Morse of Uhelmsford, 1864.
- Mr. H. F. Lane of Templeton, 1865.
- Mr. Joel D. Miller of Athol, 1865, 1866.
- Mr. Oscar H. Stearns, 1867.
- Mr. H. Brown of Quincy, 1867.
- Mr. A. L. Gleason of Amherst College, 1867.
- Mr. Stephen A. Snow, 1868.
- Mr. J. F. Fielden, 1868.
- Mr. F. W. Bardwell, 1868.
- Mr. Sanford B. Cook of Petersham, 1869.
- Mr. Fred F. Foster of Weare, N. H., 1870, 1871.
- Mr. A. W. Bachelier of Boston, 1872, 1873.
- Mr. Geo. G. Pratt of Boston, 1873.
- Mr. Virgil M. Howard of Deerfield, 1874, 1875.
- Mr. E. A. Baldwin, 1876.
- Mr. Sidney P. Smith of Princeton, Ill., 1877 to 1880.

Mr. Lewis Parkhurst of Fitchburg, 1880.

Mr. B. F. Brown of Fitchburg, 1881, 1882.

Mr. L. McL. Jackson of Bernardston, 1883 to 1886.

Mr. W. H. Terrill of Morrisville, Vt., 1886 to 1889.

Mr. W. J. Rushmore of Cambridge, 1890, 1891.

Mr. Geo. M. Strout, 1892, 1893.

Mr. F. C. Avery of Waterbury, Vt., 1894,

There have been employed as assistant teachers, twenty-two as follows: H. H. Sprague, 1858; James Oliver, Jr., 1860; Geo. A. Black, 1873; Emma L. Pierce, 1873; Annie Knapp Cheney, 1874 to 1876; Etta V. Cutter, 1876 to 1878; Mary Durkee Robinson, 1878, 1879; Ellen M. Bigelow, 1880, 1881; Kate Tower Pinney, 1882 to 1887; Elizabeth Bridgeford Amsden, 1887 to 1889. Since that date the teachers have been: Clara Preston, Fanny Bugbee Cobb, Grace G. Rickey, Henry A. Roberts, Mary Lang Strout, Janet G. Patterson, Cora Coolidge, Mary Epps, Helen M. Humphrey, Julia Strong and Anna Kitchel.

We give brief sketches of some of the principals who have recently served the school.

Benj. F. Brown was born in Lowell, Vt. in 1849. He removed to Fitchburg, Mass., in 1866, where he was fitted for college at the Fitchburg High school, and entered Amherst College, from which he graduated in 1874. From the time of graduation until 1890, he was engaged in teaching in the following places: High school and Day Street Grammar school of Fitchburg, 1874 to 1881; Athol High school, 1881 to 1883; Montpelier Vt. High school, 1883 to 1885, and the Gibson School, Boston, 1885 to 1890. In 1890 he engaged in the development of a

machine for automatically measuring, filling, and sealing packets of seeds, dyes, powders etc. The machine was perfected and put into successful operation the following year, and a company organized in Fitchburg to manufacture them, of which Mr. Brown is President and Manager. He was married in 1880 to Zephirine Normandin of Milford, and their present residence is at Dorchester, Mass.

Mr. W. H. Terrill, who was principal of the High school for three years, beginning with September, 1886, was born in Morristown, Vermont. He prepared for College in the Academy of his native town, and entered Wesleyan University in the Fall of 1879, graduating in the class of 1883. He entered upon the work of teaching immediately upon graduation. For three years he filled the chair of Natural Sciences in the Vermont Methodist Seminary at Montpelier, Vt., resigning that position to accept the Principalship of the Athol High school. Since leaving Athol, Mr. Terrill has held the position of instructor in Greek and Latin in Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., where he is still employed.

F. C. Avery, the present Principal of the High school, was born in Tunbridge, Vt., April 14, 1861. His early education was received in the Grammar schools of Stafford, Vt. He was for three years at Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, N. H., and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1888. After graduating he was Principal of Wells River High school and Superintendent of Grammar schools in that town for two years, and held the same position in Waterbury, Vt. three years, from which place he came to Athol as Principal of the High school in 1893.

Under his charge the school is attaining a high rank among the High schools of the state. He was married in August, 1894, to Miss Mabel Ripley Hatch, of Stafford, Vermont.

The whole number of graduates from the school since a course of study was established and diplomas awarded, commencing with the Class of 1876, and including the Class of 1896, is 199. Of this number, divided among the twenty-one classes, more than forty have been engaged as teachers, some of them filling important positions. The largest class to graduate was the Class of 1896, with twenty-two members, and the Class of 1887 was the next in rank, sending out nineteen. Thirteen graduates have died.

COLLEGE GRADUATES.—The following persons, natives of Athol, have received a College education :

WILLIAMS COLLEGE.—Jesse Stratton, 1814 ; Joseph Estabrook, 1818 ; John Wiswell Humphrey, 1823 ; John Drury, Jr., Wm. La Roy Haven, 1864 ; Joel Drury Miller, 1864, Frederick Eugene Stratton, 1871.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.—Joseph A. Shaw, 1858 ; Henry H. Sprague, 1864 ; Maurice H. Richardson, 1873 ; George A. Black, 1879, Albert H. Newman, 1895.

AMHERST COLLEGE.—Chas. H. Sweetser, 1862 ; Henry A. Simonds, 1883 ; Eugene T. Allen, 1887.

YALE COLLEGE.—Hollon A. Farr, 1896.

PRINCETON College.—Ward Talbot.

BROWN UNIVERSITY. Lucien E. Taylor, 1895.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. —Louis Mills



Norton, 1873 ; James P. Lynde, 1886 ; Walter J. Rickey, 1895 ; Mortimer A. Sears, 1896.

MILITARY UNIVERSITY, of Norwich, Vt.—Henry M. Phillips.

WELLESLEY College.—Arline Smith, 1895, Grace G. Rickey.

Louis M. Norton took his degree of Ph. D. at Göttingen University, Germany.

Eugene T. Allen, after graduating from Amherst College, also took a course at Johns Hopkins University, from which he received the degree of Ph. D.

Wm. H. Parmenter entered Yale College, and after two years in that institution entered the Harvard Law school.

Ralph W. Drury entered the Massachusetts Agricultural College, and left that institution to take an appointment at the United States Military Academy, West Point, where he remained two years.

### LIBRARIES.

Previous to 1830, the Athol Social Library had been in existence, as we find in a copy of Freedom's Sentinel of 1828, an advertisement of books belonging to that organization for sale. During the decade between 1850 and 1860, three libraries were in existence, as follows: A "Ladies' Social Circle Library," organized in 1856, having 239 volumes, in charge of Miss Anna Cobleigh, and a "Ladies' Library Association," organized in 1857, having 270 volumes and officered as follows: President, Miss Clara Thorpe ; Vice President, Mrs. Geo. D. Colony ; Secretary, Miss Ellen M. Bigelow ; Treasurer, Miss Emma J. Knowlton ; Librarian, Mrs. J. S. Parmenter, with the fol-

lowing assistants: Mrs. Alvin Houghton, Mrs. Leander Cheney, Mrs. Geo. Sprague, Emma J. Knowlton, Miss Josephine M. Knowlton and Mrs. Susan Ainsworth. Another was "The Athol Agricultural and Mechanical Library Association," organized in 1858, "with the object of diffusing among the people a greater knowledge of the arts and sciences," having 150 volumes, and the following officers: President, L. W. Hapgood; Vice President, F. F. Amsden; Secretary, J. I. Goulding; Treasurer, C. B. Swan; Librarian, J. I. Goulding.

The largest collection of books gathered by any Society was that of the Athol Library Association, which was organized in December, 1878, with Hon. Chas. Field as President. This association collected a library of upwards of 1000 volumes during the three years of its existence; the library room of the Society was at the residence of Joel M. Doane on School street, and Mrs. Eliza Doane was the librarian. In the spring of 1882, this association offered to make over to the town its library on conditions that the town should furnish a suitable place for the books, and appropriate money for the support of the library and the purchase of new books. This offer was accepted by the town, and at a town meeting held in April 1882, a library committee was chosen, consisting of Hon. Charles Field, Rev. H. A. Blake, Rev. J. H. Cox, E. V. Wilson, Esq., and L. B. Caswell.

Mr. Field was chairman of this committee, and Mr. Caswell the secretary and treasurer. The Athol Library Association then made over its library to the town, and the Free Public Library of Athol was established. Ar-

arrangements were made to continue the library room at the same place, and also to retain the services of Mrs. Doane as the librarian. During the first year that the library was open to the public 650 persons availed themselves of its privileges, and 8873 books were delivered.

During the year 1895, 13,869 books were delivered. The Library was continued in its first quarters, a room in the dwelling house of Joel M. Doane on School street, and in charge of the same librarian, Mrs. Eliza F. Doane, until April, 1887, when it was removed to its present quarters, and the present librarian, Mrs. Mercie S. Doane was engaged. The appropriation by the town the first year was \$300, and from that time until 1894, it was \$500 each year, since which time it has been \$1000 per year. Special attention has been paid to making the library an aid in school work, and in the selection of books care has been taken to secure a goodly number of such works as would be of value and service to teachers and scholars in their daily work, and the library committee every year includes one or more members of the School Committee.

The Library now contains 5000 volumes. The organization of the Library Committee has been as follows :

1882, Charles Field, Chairman, Lilley B. Caswell, Rev. H. A. Blake, Rev. J. H. Cox, Edgar V. Wilson.

1883, Charles Field, Chairman, Lilley B. Caswell, Henry M. Humphrey, Daniel A. Newton, Lucien Lord.

1884, Charles Field, Chairman, Lilley B. Caswell, Thomas H. Goodspeed, Mrs. A. H. French, Henry M. Humphrey, Rev. Charles P. Lombard, Mrs. Sarah H. Smith.

1885, Lilley B. Caswell, Chairman, Robert Brookhouse, Miss Ellen M. Bigelow, Thomas H. Goodspeed, Rev. Chas. P. Lombard, Mrs. Sarah H. Smith, William F. Thomas.

1886, Rev. Charles P. Lombard, Chairman, Sidney P. Smith, Robert Brookhouse, Miss Ellen M. Bigelow, Augustus Coolidge, Mrs. Sarah H. Smith.

1887, Rev. Charles P. Lombard, Chairman, Miss Ellen M. Bigelow, Robert Brookhouse, Almond Smith, Mrs. Sarah H. Smith, Edgar V. Wilson.

1888, William H. Terrill, Chairman, Edgar V. Wilson, Miss Ellen M. Bigelow, Rev. H. W. Stebbins, Almond Smith, Mrs. Sarah H. Smith.

1889, Edgar V. Wilson, Chairman, Mrs. Sarah H. Smith, Miss Ellen M. Bigelow, Rev. Chas. E. Perkins, Almond Smith, Rev. H. W. Stebbins.

1890, Edgar V. Wilson, Chairman, Mrs. Sarah H. Smith, Miss Ellen M. Bigelow, Rev. Chas. E. Perkins, Rev. C. J. Shrimpton, Almond Smith.

1891, Edgar V. Wilson, Chairman, Mrs. Sarah H. Smith, Miss Ellen M. Bigelow, Rev. Chas. E. Perkins, Rev. C. J. Shrimpton, Almond Smith.

1892, Edgar V. Wilson, Chairman, Mrs. Sarah H. Smith, Rev. H. F. Brown, Miss Ellen M. Bigelow, Rev. C. J. Shrimpton, Almond Smith.

1893, Rev. C. J. Shrimpton, Chairman, Mrs. Sarah H. Smith, Miss Ellen M. Bigelow, Mrs. Clare H. Burleigh, Lucien Lord.

1894, Rev. C. J. Shrimpton, Chairman, Mrs. Sarah H. Smith, Miss Ellen M. Bigelow, Lucien Lord, Mrs. Clare H. Burleigh.

1895, Rev. C. J. Shrimpton, Chairman, Mrs. Sarah H. Smith, Miss Ellen M. Bigelow, Lucien Lord, Mrs. Clare H. Burleigh, Rev. S. W. Sutton.

1896, Rev. C. J. Shrimpton, Chairman, Mrs. Sarah H. Smith, Miss Ellen M. Bigelow, Lucien Lord, Rev. S. W. Sutton, Lilley B. Caswell.

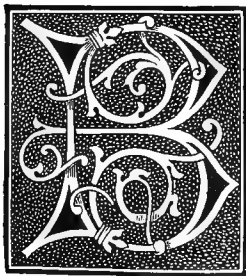
## CHAPTER X.

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### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

"Loyal to country! Brothers dear, be true  
Unto the right, in whatsoe'er ye do!  
And He who died for man will care for you!

With armor golden, free from sinful dross,  
Bearing the glorious banner of the cross,  
In the last conflict, ye shall fear no loss!"



BEFORE THE organization of a Grand Army Post in Athol, some of the old soldiers became members of Abraham Lincoln Post, now the General Sedgwick Post, No. 17 of Orange. Early in 1870, a movement was started for the formation of a Post in Athol, which resulted in the organization of one during the summer.

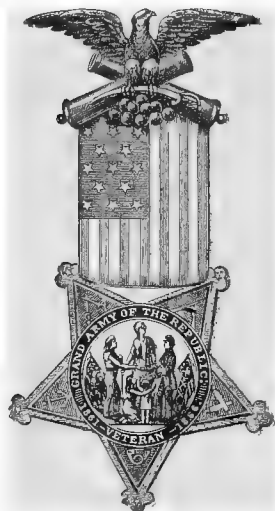
### PARKER POST, NO. 123, G. A. R.

Parker Post was organized June 8, 1870, with sixteen charter members. The Post was named in honor of  
\* James C. Parker, who enlisted in Co. A., 21st Regiment Mass. Volunteers, which left Athol for the seat of war, Aug. 22, 1861. Mr. Parker was born in Stickney, C. E., in the year 1826, and was thirty-five years of age at the

time of his enlistment. He went with his regiment to North Carolina, and was sick at the time of the capture of Roanoke Island, and on board a transport. In the battle of Newbern he was in the thickest of the fight, and was mortally wounded.

The historian of the 21st Regiment says: "Parker was one of our many men who went into the fight with an un-serviceable gun, but stood courageously in his place, though unable to fire a shot. He and Wm. H. Johnson died in the field hospital on the 15th of March. Parker's and Johnson's names are engraved on the brass rebel cannon belonging to a battery of flying artillery which was silenced by a bayonet charge of the 21st Regiment Mass. Volunteers, under Lieut. Col. Clark, at the battle of Newbern, N. C., March 14, 1862. This cannon was presented to Amherst College in memory of Adjutant Stearns. Mr. Parker was buried at Newbern, leaving a wife and three children in Athol. A daughter married Monroe F. Gage.

The Post has expended in charity during the twenty-six years of its existence upwards of two thousand dollars, and many a veteran and his family have had cause to bless the organization for the fraternal sympathy and needed relief of which they have been the recipients in times of trouble and sickness. The following is a list of those who have been Commanders :



Farwell F. Fay, 1870, '71; Geo. H. Hoyt, 1872, '73, '76; H. M. Burleigh, 1874, '75; Charles Gray, 1877; Henry T. Morse, 1878; Geo. R. Hanson, 1879; Roswell L. Doane, 1880; E. J. Shaw, 1881; James Oliver, M. D., 1882, '83, '86; Samuel N. Gould, 1884, '85; Chas. E. Taft, 1887; Henry W. Harris, 1888, '89, '91; Benj. W. Spooner, 1890; Wm. H. Heustis, 1892; James Oliver, 2d, 1893; Hiram A. Bancroft, 1894, '95.

Sketches of Commanders Fay, Hoyt, Burleigh and Dr. James Oliver will be found in other chapters of this work.

The fourth Commander was Charles Gray, a son of Alexander and Elvira Gray. He was born in Athol, Aug. 19, 1841. In September, 1861, he enlisted in Co. B., 27th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, and was appointed sergeant soon after enlisting, which office he held until discharged from the service, June 26, 1865. He participated with his regiment in the battles and sieges in which it was engaged in North Carolina and Virginia, among which were Roanoke Island, Kingston, Goldsboro, siege of Washington, N. C., and Drury's Bluff, Va., in the latter of which he was taken prisoner and confined in the rebel prisons of Libby, Danville, Andersonville, Savannah and Millen, being exposed to the weather for over seven months without a change of clothing. Soon after his return from the war he was married Aug. 11th, 1865, to Hattie N. Horton of Athol. He was a member of the Athol Fire Department for twenty-five years, having joined first in the spring of 1860, and was for ten years the chief engineer; he also served the town as one of its constables

for eighteen years, and was for several years one of the truant officers.

Henry T. Morse, the fifth Commander, is the oldest son of the late Laban Morse, and was born in Athol, Jan. 11, 1840. He received his education at the common schools of the town, and then went to work in the shop of his father. He enlisted in the 27th Regiment band and went with his regiment to North Carolina. When the regimental bands were discontinued in Aug., 1862, he returned home, but reentered the service in 1863, in the band of the 1st Brigade, 2d Division, 6th Army Corps, and was three months at Harper's Ferry, and afterwards in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Coal Harbor, and before Petersburg. On the consolidation of his Brigade, Nov. 11, 1864, he was discharged and returned home. In 1865, with his brother Leander, he engaged in business with his father, under the firm name of L. Morse & Sons. This continued for about a year, when he went to California, where he remained two years, and then returned to Athol, which was his home until 1881, when he removed to Boston, and has since been engaged as an inventor. He was the inventor of Morse's folding settee, and one of his latest inventions is Morse's rotary engine. While in Athol he was connected with the fire department for a long time, being the foreman of the Athol Steamer Co. when it was first organized. He married Helen S. Sibley of Athol.

George R. Hanson, the sixth Commander, was born in New Salem. He enlisted when nineteen years old in the 27th Regiment, and was one of the band accompanying the





JAMES C. PARKER.



HENRY M. BURLEIGH.



CHARLES GRAY.



HENRY T. MORSE.



ROSWELL L. DOANE.



HENRY W. HARRIS.



regiment to North Carolina in Burnside's expedition. On the discontinuance of regimental bands he was discharged Aug. 30, 1862. He reenlisted July 14, 1863, in Co. A, 2d Mass. Heavy Artillery. Was on detached service for six months with Capt. Geo. W. Bartlett, 27th Mass. Infantry, was provost marshal at Beaufort, N. C., and clerk at regimental headquarters of the 2d Mass. Heavy Artillery for nearly a year, and held the office of Sergeant in this company. Was commissioned First Lieutenant in the 14th U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery, June 21st, 1865, and Nov. 7, 1865, was commissioned as Captain in the same. He was discharged from the service Dec. 11, 1865.

Roswell L. Doane, the seventh Commander, was born in Phillipston, Jan. 26, 1843. He attended the schools of his native town and the Templeton High school, leaving the latter to enlist in April, 1861, and was mustered into Co. A, 21st Regiment Mass. Infantry in July of that year. He went with the Burnside expedition, and was with his regiment in all the battles in North Carolina, at the second battle of Bull Run, Chantilly, South Mountain, Antietam and Fredericksburg, in the latter of which he was shot in the right hip, the bullet remaining in him to the present day. He was discharged from the service June 1, 1863, and after six years spent in Worcester and other places, came to Athol in 1869, which has since been his home. He carried on the slating business for ten years, and was also extensively engaged in the teaming business for many years. On Jan. 1, 1893, he was appointed deputy sheriff. Was on the staff of department commander Richard F. Tobin in 1886, and accompanied

him to the National Encampment at San Francisco. A prominent member of the Knights of Pythias, he was elected in 1893 to the office of Lieut. Col. of the First Regiment Uniform Rank Knights of Pythias, and has held the office of Judge Advocate General, on the staff of Brigadier General John H. Abbott, of the Mass. Brigade, with the rank of Colonel. He was married Oct. 10, 1864, to Miss Mercie S. Gray of Templeton.

E. J. Shaw, the eighth Commander, was born in St. George, New Brunswick, July 11, 1840. In 1855 he went to New York City, where he attended school four years, after which he learned the druggist business, and in January, 1860, opened a drug store in company with his brother, who was a graduate of the New York University Medical College. In September, 1861, he was appointed Surgeon's Steward in the United States Navy, and ordered for duty to the U. S. S. "Montgomery", under Surgeon David T. Lincoln of Cambridge, Mass. The vessel sailed from the Brooklyn Navy Yard Sept. 29, 1861, and joined the Gulf Squadron under Admiral Farragut.

Mr. Shaw was proprietor of a drug store in Worcester from 1864 to 1868, when he sold out his business and came to Athol to take the position of agent and superintendent of the cotton mill, owned by his father-in-law, W. A. Fisher. He held this position until the fall of 1881, and since that time has been in the hotel business, being now proprietor of the Central House at Plymouth, Mass.

Samuel N. Gould, the tenth Commander, was born in Abington, Conn., Jan. 20, 1830. He came to Massachusetts when about sixteen years of age and learned the car-



E. J. SHAW.



S. N. GOULD.



CHAS. E. TAFT.



WM. H. HEUSTIS.



B. W. SPOONER.



penter's trade, which he followed for a number of years. In 1853 he married Miss Sally M. Davis, who died in early life, leaving one son, and in 1857 he married Miss Phœbe S. Davis. He enlisted from Templeton, July 19, 1861, as musician in Co. A, 21st Regiment Mass. Volunteers, and followed the fortunes of his regiment through its term of service, being discharged Aug. 30, 1864. He came to Athol in 1874, and entered the Athol Machine Co., where he was employed until the time of his death, Feb. 24, 1892. Soon after coming to Athol he became a member of Parker Post, served as adjutant three years, and was elected as commander for 1884 and 1885, always maintaining a deep interest in the Grand Army.

Charles E. Taft, the eleventh Commander, was born in Fitzwilliam, N. H., Aug. 9, 1846. He enlisted in Co. A, 21st Mass. Regiment, and joined his regiment early in 1864, going into service in Virginia; was first under fire at the explosion of the mine in front of Petersburg, July 30, 1864, and was also in the great battles near Petersburg, in April 1865. Since his return from the war, Mr. Taft has been a resident of Athol; in 1870 he kept a billiard hall at the Lower Village, was for a time engaged in canvassing for various papers, and has for many years been employed at the furniture works of L. Morse & Sons.

Henry W. Harris, the twelfth Commander, was born in Petersham, July 28, 1845. He enlisted from New Salem in 1863, in the 4th Mass. Cavalry, and also served in Co. H, 4th Mass. Heavy Artillery. His service was mostly in Virginia. In his early life he was a shoemaker, but most of the time since his return from the war he has been en-

gaged in the meat and provision business. He has been prominently identified with the Grand Army, and was on the staff of Department Commander Myron P. Walker. He is a member of various Odd Fellow and Masonic organizations, and was appointed a Justice of the Peace by Governor Ames. He was married Jan. 19, 1893 to Lizzie Eldridge of Maine.

B. W. Spooner, the thirteenth Commander of the Post, was born July 8, 1837, at the old Spooner homestead in Petersham, where his father and grandfather were also born, and which has always been his home. He was married Jan. 1, 1862, to Fanny M. Grout of Westminster, Vt., and in September of the same year he enlisted in Co. F, 53d Regiment Mass. Volunteers, under Capt. J. G. Mudge, and was with his regiment during its term of service in Louisiana. After he returned from the army he engaged in the meat business in connection with his farming, and continued it for fifteen years, when he gave it up, and devotes his entire time to his farm, on which he has made many improvements. He has five children, four daughters and one son.

Wm. H. Heustis, the fourteenth Commander, was born in Boston, May 5, 1841, and attended the public schools of that city. He removed to Leominster when about eighteen years of age, and on the breaking out of the war went to Annapolis, Md, where he was in government employ until September, 1862, when he enlisted in Co. C, 53d Mass. Volunteers, and was appointed corporal. He was wounded at Port Hudson June 14, 1863, and was discharged from the service Sept. 2, 1863, after which he re-enlisted



in the 4th Regiment Heavy Artillery, and was honorably discharged from the same. Mr. Heustis has been prominently identified with the Grand Army, having joined Timothy Ingraham Post May 3, 1872, and was transferred to the H. V. Smith Post, No. 140, of which he was the third commander, and later to Parker Post, No. 123, of which he is still a member. He has served on the staff of Department Commander Geo. L. Goodale, and on the staffs of National Commanders John Palmer and John J. B. Adams. He has been prominent in the Masonic fraternity, having been made a Mason in 1864 in Wilder lodge of Leominster; he has held many of the prominent offices of the local lodges, having been Master of Star lodge and Eminent Commander of Athol Commandery, and is also a member of many of the higher orders of the fraternity, including the Massachusetts Consistory 32d degree, and Aleppo Temple Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is also a prominent Odd Fellow, and has held the office of High Priest in Mount Pleasant Encampment and Captain of Canton Athol. He came to Athol in September, 1873, which has since been his home.

James Oliver, 2d, Commander in 1893, was born in Royalston Sept. 29, 1832, and came to Athol in 1849, working at first in the cotton mill. He worked in various machine shops until 1862, when he enlisted in the 27th Mass. Regiment, and was in the various battles in which his regiment was engaged in North Carolina. In December, 1863, he was detailed as Regimental Armorer at Norfolk, Va., and later was detailed as nurse in the hospital, and also as carpenter. He was discharged from the service Sept. 27, 1864.

After his return from the war, he worked four years for the Vermont & Mass. R. R. Co., was in the machine business in Athol for five years, and commencing in 1874, was employed by the Fitchburg Railroad Co. as locomotive foreman for thirteen and a half years, his home being for several years at North Adams. He returned to Athol in 1890, which has since been his home. He is a member of the Methodist church and one of its trustees. He was married Oct. 19, 1854, to Charlotte D. Bailey of Lunenburg, Mass. They have one daughter, Miss Idella Oliver.

Hiram A. Bancroft, the fifteenth Commander, was born Dec. 21, 1847, in Templeton. His parents moved to Phillipston when he was eight years of age, from which place he enlisted Oct. 26, 1863, in Co. G, 34th Mass. Volunteers, being at the time less than sixteen years of age. He joined his regiment at Harper's Ferry, Va., in January, 1864, and was under Gen. Sigel in the Shenandoah Valley, on Hunter's raid to Lynchburg, and afterwards under Gen. Sheridan at the time of his famous ride from Winchester to Cedar Creek; was afterwards transferred to the army of the James, and in 1865, to the army of the Potomac, where he was engaged in the final capture of Petersburg and Richmond and the surrender of Lee. He was transferred to the 34th Mass. Regiment, and was finally mustered out of service Jan. 20, 1866. He was married Dec. 22, 1876, to Miss Lizzie Moore of Athol. He joined the Grand Army Post of Orange in 1869, and later was transferred to Parker Post, of which he was elected commander for 1894 and again for 1895.

## HUBBARD V. SMITH POST, NO. 140 G. A. R.

This post was organized Feb. 22, 1882, with twenty-five charter members, and was composed almost wholly of comrades residing in the lower village. Chief Mustering officer A. C. Monroe, was the installing officer, and the first meetings were held in Phoenix hall on Exchange street, and then in Cardany's block, until December, 1886, when the present fine hall was dedicated, which has since been the home of the Post. The Commanders of the Post have been Wm. E. Jaquith, Lewis H. Sawin, Wm. H. Heustis, Levi C. Sawin, W. H. Mellen and Geo. A. Bennett.

Hubbard V. Smith, from whom the Post takes its name, was a son of Abner and Florilla Smith, and was born in Shutesbury, April 27, 1840. He came with his parents to Athol in 1850, attended the public schools, and was one of the first to join the army from this town on the breaking out of the Rebellion, enlisting in Co. F, 2d Mass. Infantry; was in the Shenandoah campaign under Gen. Burke, and was wounded on the retreat from Winchester, May 25, 1862, a minie ball entering his body just above the right hip, and passing so nearly through him that it was extracted above the left hip. He was taken prisoner, and when the rebels were obliged to retreat, he was paroled for exchange; after being in hospitals at Harper's Ferry and Annapolis for several months he was able to come home in October, and was discharged Jan. 1, 1863. After his return home he went to Wilbraham Academy, but his wound was so troublesome that he was obliged to return home; he suffered a great deal and died Aug. 2, 1867.

William E. Jaquith, the first Commander, was born in Orford, N. H., Sept. 9, 1838. Most of his life has been spent in railroad work, he having served as section foreman on the Rutland and Burlington, Rutland and Washington, Worcester and Nashua, and New London Northern railroads previous to coming to Athol in 1876. At that time he became a foreman on the Fitchburg railroad, which position he filled for nearly twenty years.

On Aug. 29, 1862, he enlisted in Co. A, 15th Regiment Vermont Volunteers. He was married April 3, 1867, in Keene, N. H., to Miss Addie D. Fisher. Since residing in Athol, Mr. Jaquith has been deeply interested in the Grand Army, having joined Parker Post in 1877, and was one of the organizers of Hubbard V. Smith Post in 1882, being its first Commander, and serving in that position at different times for five years. He was instrumental in the organization of the Gen. W. T. Sherman Camp Sons of Veterans, and also of the Woman's Relief Corps. He was Aide De Camp on the staff of Commander in-Chief Palmer of the Grand Army, and a delegate to the National Encampment at Milwaukee.

Lewis H. Sawin, the second Commander of the Post, was born in Athol Oct. 5, 1845. He was educated in the public schools of the town, and went from the High school into the Navy, in which he enlisted March 6, 1862. For four months he was on the Receiving Ship Ohio, at the Charlestown Navy Yard, and was then transferred to the Gun Boat Sonoma. The Sonoma was sent to the James River, and remained there until McCellan made his famous retreat. when she was sent up the Potomac to



HUBBARD V. SMITH.



WILLIAM E. JAQUITH.



LEWIS H. SAWIN.



LEVI C. SAWIN.



WILLIAM H. MELLEN.



GEORGE A. BENNETT.



Washington, and joined the flying squadron in the West Indies. While on this cruise the Sonoma took three vessels ; this was the first gunboat to go through the obstructions at Savannah, and did picket duty at Charleston the next night after the surrender of the city. He received his discharge from the Navy March 17, 1865. After returning home he went to a business college in New Haven, and worked in Boston for a year. Was engaged in the grocery business in Athol, under the firm name of Packard & Co. for about three years, and was in the employ of Smith & Jaquith at Templeton four years, and for nearly twenty years has been book-keeper for the Athol Machine Co. In 1891, served on the staff of Commander-in-Chief Veazy. Is a member of the Sons of Veterans and the Knights of Honor. Was married June 22, 1869, to Miss Marietta Bangs of Leverett.

Levi C. Sawin, the fourth Commander, was born in Ashburnham, Aug. 11, 1838. When sixteen years of age he went to Fitchburg and learned the machinists' trade, and afterwards the carriage makers trade, which occupation he has ever since followed. He went to Gardner and engaged in business for himself, where he enlisted in Co. G, 53d Mass. Regiment, and remained with his regiment during its term of service. On his return from the war he resumed his business in Gardner, where he remained until 1876, when he came to Athol, where he has built up a flourishing business. In 1864, he married Miss Ruth E. Temple of Gardner. While in Ashburnham he joined the Methodist church, of which denomination he has since been a member, and is one of the trustees of the Athol

church. Mr. Sawin was commander of the Post for three successive years, and has been captain of the Athol Division Uniform Rank, Knights of Pythias. He was also one of the constables of Athol for nine years.

William H. Mellen, the fifth Commander, was born in Spofford, N. Y., Nov. 9. 1842, being the youngest of a family of eight children; removed with his father's family to North Orange, Mass., when but a few years old. He learned the mechanics trade at Templeton, and on the breaking out of the war of the rebellion enlisted in Co. A. 21st Mass. Volunteers, and was mustered into the U. S. service Aug. 23d, 1861. He was in the battles of Roanoke Island, Newbern, Camden and Second Bull Run, in the last of which he was wounded and sent to hospitals in Philadelphia, Washington and Portsmouth Grove, R. I. Was discharged from the service May 6, 1864. In July, 1864, he was married to Miss Gertrude E. Squire of Russia, Herkimer Co., N. Y. He returned to Templeton and resumed his trade, remaining there about a year, when in company with J. W. Lamb, he engaged in the manufacture of pine and chestnut furniture in the town of Orange, under the firm name of Mellen & Lamb. In 1881, they bought a steam mill and did custom sawing; later Mr. Mellen purchased his partner's interest, and is still engaged in the same business, having converted into lumber upwards of twenty million feet of logs.

He was elected as Commander of Hubbard V. Smith Post for 1891, and re-elected to the same position for 1892, and served on Department Commander Innis staff in 1890. He is also a member of the Knights of Honor



and Knights of Pythias. He was elected on the board of Selectmen for 1894, and was re-elected in 1895 and 1896, serving the latter year as chairman. He was also elected to represent the First Worcester District in the Legislature of 1897.

George A. Bennett was born in Salem, Mass., April 21st, 1844. He received his education in the public schools of that city, and after leaving school was apprenticed to learn the cooper's trade. He enlisted Aug. 21, 1862, in Co. A, 50th Mass. Regiment, serving one year, and then re-enlisted in the 13th Unattached Co. M. V. M., and also later in Co. E, 1st Frontier Cavalry. After returning from the war he learned the shoe cutting business, and since 1878 has been employed as foreman of cutting rooms by S. B. Fuller & Son at Essex, Mass., for Francis W. Breed at factories in Lynn and Rochester, N. H., coming to Athol with Mr. Breed in the fall of 1887. For the last three years he has been employed as foreman for Hill & Greene. He was married April 7th, 1874, to Miss Helen F. Lufkin of Essex, Mass.

The first few years after the observance of Memorial Day was commenced, Parker Post united with the Orange Post in the decoration ceremonies and exercises in both towns, the speaking being by local speakers. The most distinguished soldier of the Grand Army of the Republic who ever participated in the exercises of Memorial Day in Athol, was Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, who was the honored guest of Athol comrades on Memorial Day, 1873, when the greatest Memorial Day demonstration ever witnessed in this section of the state took place.

The town was profusely decorated with flags and bunting, and Depot Square was thronged with an immense crowd when the morning train arrived with General Burnside, accompanied by Gen. Richmond and Sergt. Plunkett, the armless hero of Fredericksburg, and as these old heroes were received by Gen. Hoyt, and escorted to the barouche in waiting for them, the enthusiasm and demonstrations of the veterans of the Grand Army was almost beyond description. The procession, which extended from the Pequig House, nearly to the Lower Village cemetery, included Parker Post, the Grand Army Posts of Gardner and Orange, the Athol Fire Department, Father Matthew Temperance Society, the school children, and nearly one hundred carriages containing the citizens of the town.

Speeches were made by Gens. Burnside and Richmond in front of the Summit House at the Upper Village, and in the afternoon Music Hall was filled with nearly two thousand people to listen to the exercises. The Memorial day orators since that occasion have been as follows: 1874, Hon. Rufus Livermore of Orange; 1875, Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell; 1877, Col. J. A. Titus of Worcester; 1878, Hon. Frank Gargan of Boston; 1879, Col. W. S. B. Hopkins of Worcester; 1880, Capt. A. A. White of the 36th Regiment; 1881, William H. Hart of Chelsea; 1882, Gen. S. G. Griffin of Keene, N. H.; 1883, Rev. Melville Smith of Newburyport; 1884, Hon. J. R. Thayer of Worcester; 1885, Rev. Geo. S. Ball of Upton, chaplain of the 21st Mass. Regiment; 1886, Rev. P. M. Vinton of Athol; 1887, Capt. John F. Ashley of Gardner of the 53d Regiment; 1888, Col. Asa L. Kneeland of Worcester, an old

Athol soldier of the 32d Regiment; 1889, Rev. I. J. Lansing of Worcester; 1890, Rev. F. O. Hall of Fitchburg; 1891, Wm. H. Bartlett of Worcester; 1892, C. S. Chapin of Fitchburg; 1893, Prof. A. S. Roe of Worcester; 1894, J. B. McCabe, Commander-in-chief of the Sons of Veterans of the United States; 1895, Col. G. W. Hooker of Brattleboro, Vt.; 1896, Past Department Commander Geo. S. Evans of Cambridge.

GEN. W. T. SHERMAN CAMP NO. 65, SONS OF VETERANS.

This Camp was organized May 26, 1886, with twenty-one charter members. The present membership is fifty. The first captain was W. D. Mellen, and C. H. Upham and Edward Hosmer served during 1887. The Captains since that time have been: F. H. Brock, 1888, F. H. Sprague, 1889, C. W. Chapin, 1890, '91, E. H. White, 1892, F. P. Hall, 1893, W. B. Gould, 1894, H. L. Doane, 1895, P. H. Starrett, 1896,

HOYT POST, NO. 3, MATRONS OF THE REPUBLIC.

Post 3, Matrons of the Republic, was organized as auxiliary to Parker Post, at Athol Centre, May 3, 1878. The object of the organization is to assist Parker Post in caring for disabled soldiers and their families, and during the eighteen years of its existence, has expended upwards of three thousand dollars in relief work. Soldiers wives, widows, mothers, sisters, daughters and Sons of Veterans' wives, only, are eligible to membership in the Post. Those who have served as Commanders, are: Mrs. Mary A. Hoyt, 1878, '79; Mrs. Sarah L. Drury, 1879, '80; Mrs. Mercie S. Doane, 1881, 82, '83, '84; Mrs. Fannie Kil-

burn, 1885 ; Mrs. Mary F. Wellman, 1885 ; Mrs. Abbie A. Hill, 1886, '87, '96 ; Mrs. Kate J. Oliver, 1888, '89 ; Mrs. Carrie M. Pond, 1890, '91, '94, '95 ; Mrs. Nettie C. Stevens, 1892, '93.

HUBBARD V. SMITH, WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS, NO. 82.

The Woman's Relief Corps, No. 82, auxiliary to Hubbard V. Smith Post, was organized Feb. 22, 1887, with forty-one charter members. The officers were installed by Mrs. Mary M. Perry of Springfield. The organization has done, and is doing, a grand work in comforting sorrowing hearts and relieving the necessities of needy ones, and ranks high in the state department for relief work. The present membership is one hundred and ninety-seven.

The Presidents have been : Mrs. Clare H. Burleigh, who served three years, Miss Minerva K. Pitts one year, Mrs. Mercie S. Doane two years, Mrs. Julia Hamilton three years. Mrs. Sarah H. Smith, who now holds the office is serving on her second term. Mrs. Smith is a daughter of the late Lyman W. Hapgood, and has always been prominently identified with the musical and social circles of the town. She has for some time been the Secretary of the Public Library committee.

Mrs. Clare Hoyt Burleigh, daughter of Dr. Geo. Hoyt, was born in Athol. Her early education was obtained in the Athol schools, after which she attended the famous Seminary of the Misses Stone in Greenfield for a year and a half, and was also a pupil for about the same length of time of Mrs. Willard's celebrated Seminary in Troy, N. Y. Her musical and art education was obtained under



CLARE H. BURLEIGH.



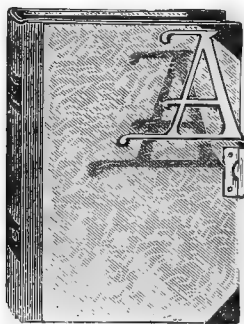
the instruction of some of the most distinguished teachers of Boston and New York; among them were Madame Arnault, Keller and Kriessman of Boston, Bassini of New York and Madame Nora of the Royal Academy. She was the only soprano soloist in Christ and St. John's churches at Hartford, Conn. for six or seven years. She was married in Kansas, April 22, 1869, to H. M. Burleigh, Esq., who died in March, 1894. She is a graceful and able writer, and in the early days of the Athol Transcript was the writer of its editorials, and has contributed poems and sketches for various magazines and papers, also for many local celebrations and anniversaries. A number of these poems have been collected into a volume bearing the title of "A Four-Leaved Clover and Wayside Rhymes."

Her greatest work, however, has been done for the veterans of the late war and their dependents. Instrumental in the organization of the local Woman's Relief Corps, she was its first President, which position she held for three years. Her enthusiastic and earnest work caused her to be recognized in the State Department, where she served as Department Inspector, Junior and Senior Vice Presidents, and finally in February, 1894, was elected President of the Woman's Relief Corps of Massachusetts. A woman of more than average talent, gifted as a public speaker, and possessed of great executive ability, she held that position with honor to herself and the women of Massachusetts. Soon after her retirement from that office she was offered the position of Superintendent of the National Home of the Woman's Relief Corps, at Madison, Ohio, which she accepted, and where she is now engaged.

## CHAPTER XI.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT.

"A little fire is quickly trodden out; which, being suffer'd, rivers cannot quench."



T a town meeting held April 7, 1817, a committee consisting of James Oliver, Geo. Oliver and James Humphrey, chosen to investigate in regard to a fire engine made the following report: "As to the engine, your committee are of the opinion that a large majority of the inhabitants of the town could not be directly benefitted by it, but as it will be a benefit to the whole town to have the buildings of any of the inhabitants preserved from fire, we are of the opinion the town will be willing to be at one third part of the expense, if individuals should see fit to pay the residue of the expense of obtaining one all which is submitted."

The recommendation of the committee was adopted by the town. The origin and minutes of Fire Engine No. 2, are first recorded under date of May 26, 1817, and at a



meeting of the inhabitants of the town, a committee is appointed to confer with the town's committee to carry into effect the intentions of the subscribers, viz : to purchase a good effective engine.

George Fitts, Esq., an Athol mechanic, is engaged to build an engine upon the conditions, that if it does not answer a good and sufficient purpose, and answer the expectations of those concerned in it, and be satisfactory as to price, the committee shall not be under obligation to receive it. As the records further state, that three hundred dollars was paid to G. Fitts, Esq. for engine, we conclude that it proved satisfactory in all respects. The sum of thirty-six dollars was also paid Morton & Sheldon for twelve buckets, and of the total amount individuals paid two hundred and twenty-four dollars, and the town one hundred and twelve dollars.

The engine men appointed for this engine were as follows: Ebenezer Sheldon, Charles Crosby, Josiah M. Jones, Alden Spooner, Asa Spooner, William Hoar, Peter Wilder, Loring Hascall, Theodore Jones, Paul Morse, George Fitts, James Brown, David Orcut, Joel Kendall, Jr., Wm. Fowler, Wm. Morse, Nathaniel Wilder. The old records of this company refer to suppers had at early candle lighting at Z. Field's and at Mr. Preston's. At one of these festive occasions, the company from the Lower Village, with the Selectmen, Fire Wards and others, were invited guests, who, "to the number of about eighty, took supper, drank toasts and had a jovial time, all which was done in order." Occasionally a vote like the following is recorded: "Voted that the company after the roll call

return to the tavern; for the purpose of taking something to cheer up their spirits, and that the clerk should pay for the same out of the fine moneys."

There was also an engine and a company in the Lower Village at the same time, and the records of 1817 read as follows: "We, the subscribers, inhabitants of the town of Athol, are appointed by the gentlemen selectmen of the town to man and exercise said engine: Eliphalet Thorp, Adin Holbrook, Ezra Fish, Perley Sibley, Stephen Harwood, William Newhall, David Young, Jr., David Harwood, Reuben Fairbanks, Amos Blodgett, John H. Morse, Thomas Barry, Gideon Sibley, Moses Fish, Ira Thorp." The meetings of this company were held at the old "factory store," for which they seemed to have a singular affection, for a term of years, and where undoubtedly their warm deliberations were slaked by installments of "mountain dew."

In 1840, it was voted to raise sixty dollars to furnish a suitable carriage to convey the ladders and hooks belonging to fire engine No. 2, and also to furnish suitable sleds to carry the engines of the town in winter in case of fire, and also a reward of two dollars was voted to the person who shall be first at the depositories of the engines with suitable horses in case of fire.

In the summer of 1846, the town purchased two hand fire engines, one for the Upper, and one for the Lower Village. The one for the former was called the Despatch, and that for the latter the Tiger. The officers of the Tiger were C. W. Bannon, foreman, E. A. Puffer, 1st assistant, Russell Smith, 2d assistant, Henry Mason, Jr.,

clerk, David Drury, foreman of leading hose, F. G. Lord, foreman of suction hose, Rufus Putnam, steward; the company numbered forty-five men. The Despatch had as officers: J. R. Pierce, foreman, Erastus Smith, clerk and 1st assistant, Samuel A. Hill, foreman of leading hose, Wilder Stratton, foreman of suction hose, Wayland Peck, brakemaster, C. W. Morse, and W. Cram, stewards. There was great rivalry between these two companies, and a grand trial was arranged. The contest was a great affair for those days, and was witnessed by a large crowd. The Tigers won, making the quickest time, and throwing the longest and highest streams. The fire department in those days was a great institution, and was called upon to do escort duty on many occasions, as well as to extinguish fires.

In 1868, a steam fire engine was purchased for the Lower Village. In the spring of 1871, a committee was appointed to obtain an engine for the Upper Village. The committee consisted of Lyman W. Hapgood, Nathaniel Richardson, A. G. Stratton, Laban Morse, E. T. Lewis, F. G. Lord and D. W. Houghton. At a town meeting held May 4, 1871, a verbal report was presented by L. W. Hapgood, chairman of the committee, the substance of the report being that the committee were divided in opinion between the Amoskeag engine made at Manchester, N. H., and the Jucket made at Fitchburg, as to which should be purchased by the town. The members of the committee of the Upper Village were in favor of the Jucket, and those of the Lower Village favored the Amoskeag; and now occurred that memorable controversy between the

citizens of the two villages that agitated the whole town, from the children to the gray-haired old citizens and staid matrons. At one of the town meetings it was voted to purchase the engine made in Fitchburg, and then the contest waxed hot, several town meetings were called and attempts made to rescind the vote. The two factions of the committee each purchased an engine, one the Amoskeag the other the Jucket, and the greatest efforts were made by both parties to get their machines to town first. The Jucket, or Fitchburg machine, arrived first, was met at the depot by a band of music, and amid the most intense excitement was escorted by the victorious citizens of the Upper Village to their engine house. It did service until the spring of 1893, when a new engine was purchased. The Amoskeag steamer, which arrived soon after the other, was after a short time sold to the town of Orange.

A new era of the fire department commenced in 1877, on the completion of the Athol Water Works, when the town made a contract with the Athol Water Co. for fifty hydrants. The apparatus at that time consisted of two steamers, two hand engines, four hose carriages, and one hook and ladder carriage, and the water supply was obtained from fifty hydrants and three reservoirs. The board of engineers at that time consisted of L. B. Morse, chief engineer, and J. M. King, O. A. Fay and H. H. Haskins, assistants.

In 1893, an elegant brick engine house was erected on Exchange street, at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars, and in 1896, one was built at the Highlands, on the corner of Main and Pleasant streets, costing about twelve thousand

dollars. In 1894, an electric fire alarm system was established at a cost of three thousand dollars.

The engineers of the department for 1896, were Fred A. Haskins, chief engineer, and Chas F. Smith and James McManamy, district chiefs.

Fred A. Haskins, Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, was born in Hardwick, in 1855. At the age of five years his parents moved to the southwest part of New Braintree, where his father carried on a large farm. He remained at home on the farm until fifteen years of age, when he went into the railroad business, serving in various capacities as fireman, brakeman, etc., on the Boston & Albany, Ware River, and New London Northern railroads. After being engaged in this business for upwards of five years, he learned the carpenter's trade, and came to Athol in June, 1876, where he has been engaged ever since as a builder and contractor, having had charge of the erection of some of the large buildings of the town, among which are the shoe shops of C. M. Lee, the Commercial House, Ellsworth's Opera House, the Green Mountain shoe shop, the new Engine House, in the Lower Village and many others. In September, 1881, he married Miss Kate Finn of Athol. Mr. Haskins has been in the fire department five years, four years of which time he has been one of the engineers, and for the last three years has been the chief engineer of the department. He was one of the constables of the town two years.

James McManamy, one of the district chiefs, was born in Athol, Feb. 6, 1860. He attended the public schools of the town, and commenced working in the mills when

only ten years of age. Among the first places in which he was employed were the saw mill of J. M. Cheney, W. A. Fisher's cotton mill, and Leander Cheney's cotton batting mill. For more than fifteen years he has been employed in the sash and blind factory of A. F. Tyler. He was one of the constables for three years, commencing with 1892, and was appointed one of the engineers of the fire department in 1895, which position he now holds. He was one of the organizers of the Highland Association of Firemen, and a member of the committee under whose direction the Highland Engine House has been erected.

Charles F. Smith, one of the district chiefs for 1896, was born in Townsend, Mass., Dec. 5, 1855. He learned the cooper's trade, and has been employed in that business most of the time since coming to Athol, in March, 1882. He has been connected with the fire department thirteen years, and has been one of the Engineers six years. He has also served as constable eight years. He married Mary E. Newton, May 23, 1874.

Harry F. Boutell, son of James and Martha H. Boutell, was born in Athol, Sept. 28, 1855. He attended the public schools of the town until thirteen years of age, when he entered the store of Thorpe & Thomas as clerk, and remained in their employ five years. In 1875, he purchased the interest of Geo. Ward, in the firm of Ward Brothers, and the firm of Ward & Boutell was formed, which did a milling and retail hay and grain business at Athol Center. He was also associated with Dexter Aldrich in the same business for a short time, and for quite a number of years carried on the business in his own name until April 1,



FRED A. HASKINS.



JAMES McMANAMY.



CHARLES F. SMITH.



HARRY F. BOUTELL.





1895, when he sold it to his brother, Geo. W. Boutell, and removed to Barre, where he now resides. He married Eliza W. Upton of Barre, Aug. 1, 1877. There is probably no person that has been connected with the fire department during the last thirty years for so long a time as Mr. Boutell. He joined the Despatch Hand Engine Co. in 1871, when sixteen years of age, and served continuously in some position of the department for twenty-four years, during which time he never missed but one fire when in town, and he had seen every member who was on the rolls when he joined go out of the department. He served for several years on the Athol Steamer Co., and was appointed foreman of Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1, May 1st, 1879, which position he held for eight years, when he was appointed as one of the board of Engineers, May 1, 1887, and served as such until Feb. 1, 1895. He was one of the organizers of the Highland Association of Athol Firemen, and its president in 1895. He is a charter member of Tully Lodge of Odd Fellows and Banner Lodge Daughters of Rebekah, and is a member of various other organizations. He was elected one of the constables of the town in 1887, and served until March, 1895.

Among the great fires of Athol, we have space to mention only three: The burning of Music Hall at the Upper Village, April 8, 1876, when the citizens of that section saw swept out of existence in a few minutes what had been the pride of their village, for it was the most elegant and perfectly equipped, as well as the largest hall in north-western Massachusetts. The loss amounted to nearly sixty thousand dollars, and was a severe blow to the busi-

ness of that village. Another was the destruction of the large shoe shop of C. M. Lee, when upwards of two hundred and fifty hands were thrown out of employment, and the loss was estimated at nearly seventy thousand dollars. This occurred Dec, 26, 1883.

Athol's greatest conflagration was that of Dec. 21, 1890, when Masonic block and Central block, two of the largest business blocks of the town, with their contents were destroyed by fire, causing a loss of one hundred thousand dollars worth of property. It was a memorable day, and thousands of people lined the streets, while the Athol firemen, and a large delegation of the ablest fire fighters of Orange did heroic work, and achieved victory by the most magnificent fire fighting ever witnessed in this section. The saddest event of the day was the accident to the firemen, in which four of the Athol firemen, and two from Orange were seriously injured, and which resulted a few days after in the death of Alexander McLeod, from injuries received while in the discharge of his duty as foreman of Star Hose Company. This was the first time in the history of Athol that one of her firemen had met with death resulting from injuries received while in the discharge of duty, and a sadness rested upon the entire community.

Alexander McLeod was native of the Province of Quebec. He had been a resident of Athol for more than fifteen years, and was employed in the shoe shops. He had been for more than thirteen years a member of the Fire Department, and was considered one of the most faithful and able firemen of the department. His ability had

been recognized by his appointment as one of the engineers of the Department in 1889. At the time of the fire he was foreman of Star Hose Company. The funeral was held at the Methodist church and was largely attend-



ed, every member of the Fire Department in town, with the exception of the injured men, being present, while a large number of the citizens by their presence attested their respect and esteem for the deceased fireman. The

remains were conveyed to Windsor Mills, Quebec, where the burial took place.

**WATER WORKS.** In 1876, Robert Wiley and Solon L. Wiley, co-partners under the firm name of the Athol Aqueduct Company, "agreed, under seal, with the inhabitants of Athol, to furnish them with pure water for fire and domestic purposes, and to provide fifty hydrants at fifty dollars each per year, and others needed at the same rate. This agreement was signed by Robert and Solon L. Wiley, and the selectmen of Athol, June 7, 1876, and approved by the town June 13, 1876. During the summer and fall of that year, the street mains were laid and the reservoirs constructed. The source of supply selected was among the Phillipston hills, just over the Athol line, where the Wellington and Cutting brooks, and numerous springs furnished water of purest quality. The main reservoir was located partly in Phillipston and partly in Athol, a short distance east of the buildings of the Athol town farm, contains nineteen acres, with a storage capacity of nearly sixty million gallons, and is five hundred and eight feet above the Pequig House in the Lower Village. The water shed of this reservoir has an area of four hundred and twenty-one acres. Two distributing reservoirs were also built, one known as the Summer street reservoir, situated north of the Highland cemetery, and the second, of about an acre in area, known as Pleasant street reservoir, located north of the farm of C. K. Wood. Water was first introduced into town in November, 1876. About this time the Athol Water Company was organized, with a capital of eighty thousand dollars, its act of incorporation

being dated April 10, 1877. The officers of the company were: Robert Wiley, president; Solon L. Wiley, treasurer; Joseph B. Cardany, superintendent. In 1886, an additional source of supply was made available by the construction of the Buckman brook line, around the Bears Den hills, which brings water from the "Newton" reservoir to Summer street reservoir, a distance of over four miles. The "Newton" reservoir has a storage capacity of eight million gallons, and a water shed area of five hundred and twenty-two acres. A Water Committee were chosen by the town in March, 1876, consisting of the board of selectmen, W. H. Amsden, Wm. W. Fish and Gilbert Southard, together with Jonathan Drury, James M. Lee, A. H. Smith, Edwin Ellis, J. W. Hunt and J. S. Parmenter.

A controversy between the town and the Athol Water Co. regarding the efficiency of the hydrant service, and the refusal of the town to pay the rental due for hydrants, resulted in a law suit in 1888, which was the most extensive law case, in which the town was ever engaged, and which was decided in favor of the Water Company.

The management of the Water Works changed hands January 1, 1892, gentlemen from Portland, Me., being the purchasers. The officers of the new management are: Arthur W. Merrill, president; George F. West, treasurer; Warren G. West, superintendent. There are at the present time seventy-one public hydrants and four private, and about twenty-four miles of water pipe laid. The accompanying diagram gives the elevations of the several reservoirs and other localities in town, with distance above or below Main street at the Pequoig House.



The return of the Athol Water Company filed in the Tax Commissioner's office, and dated May 1, 1895, states that the capital stock of the Company is eighty thousand dollars, the number of shares eight hundred, and the par value of each share one hundred dollars. The certificate of condition filed by the Company with the Secretary of State dated, July 16, 1895, gives the value of land, water power and buildings as upwards of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and the total assets at nearly two hundred and fifty-four thousand dollars. In February, 1895, the Company made two proposals to the town of Athol, one of which was an offer of sale. A committee was appointed by the town, and an investigation of the water supply has been made.

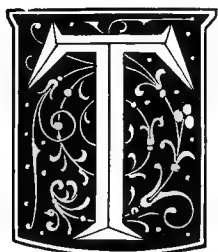
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## CHAPTER XII.

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### THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

"The time shall come when his more solid sense  
With nod important shall the laws dispense ;  
A justice with grave justices shall sit ;  
He praise their wisdom, they admire his wit."



THE FIRST lawyer of Athol, whom we have any record of, is Solomon Strong. He was a native of Amherst, the son of Hon. Simeon Strong, Judge of the Supreme Court, and was born in 1780. Graduated at Williams College in 1798, was admitted to the bar in 1803, and soon after commenced the practice of law in Athol. He remained in town three or four years, during which time he was prominent in town affairs, serving as moderator at town meetings, on various committees, and was one of the first postmasters after the establishment of the post office. The records show that he was the agent of the town in various cases that came before the courts. He removed to Westminster, became distinguished in politics, and reached the most elevated position in the legal profession. From 1812 to 1814, he was a member of the State Senate, and again in 1844. Served two terms in Congress, and was

appointed Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1818, which office he retained until 1843. He removed to Leominster after his appointment to the bench, and resided there until his death in 1850, at the age of seventy years.

Hon. Emory Washburn in an address, referred to him as follows: "A few of us remember him before he had been elevated to that place, when he honorably filled a seat in Congress, and was called thence to a vacancy upon the bench. With a good legal mind, and respectable attainments in his profession, he brought much experience in the practical affairs of life, to the business of the court, and did much to elevate and sustain its character. He won the confidence of all, by his uprightness as a Judge, and the diligence and fidelity with which he performed his duties."

Another lawyer who commenced practice in Athol early in the century, was Joseph Proctor. He was born in Littleton, Mass., Feb. 11, 1766, and graduated at Dartmouth College in 1791. In 1811, he married Mary Orcutt of Templeton. His house stood in the corner of the roads at the junction, of what is now Main and School streets, near the lot now owned by Mrs. F. C. Parmenter, and his office was a small building located on what is now the Music hall lot at the Highlands. About 1812, there seemed to be more enterprise starting in town, and the town offered to give Mr. Proctor that spot of land where his office was located, and which was then a ledge of rocks, if he would build a residence upon it. Accordingly, he began the task of clearing this ledge away, at a great expense, and



built a substantial, square, brick house, which was removed to make room for the erection of Music Hall. Mr. Proctor was a man of strict integrity, of few words, but sound judgment, and his counsel was considered of great worth in his profession, and was sought by the people from all the surrounding towns. He was prominent in town and political affairs; was one of the committee chosen by the town in 1808, to draw up a petition to the President of the United States for the repealing of the laws laying an embargo, served as moderator at town meetings, was one of the selectmen, Representative to the Legislature in 1819, and postmaster from 1809 to 1822. He died in August, 1822, of paralysis.

CLOUGH R. MILES, who succeeded Mr. Proctor as the lawyer of the town, was born in Westminster, May 31, 1796. Graduated at Harvard College in 1817, and was admitted to the bar in 1820. He commenced the practice of his profession in Athol, where he resided until 1835, when he removed to Millbury, Mass. In 1865, he relinquished the practice of law and moved to Graniteville, then a part of Needham, now Wellesley Hills, where he died in 1879. He was one of the postmasters of the Athol office, and prominent in town affairs.

ISAAC STEVENS, who succeeded Mr. Miles, was born in Wareham, Mass., April 12, 1792. He was admitted to the Bar in 1821, and commenced the practice of the law immediately after that, in Middleborough, which town he represented in the Legislature. In 1836, he removed to Athol, and continued in the practice of his profession, until within a few months of his death, which took place

Sept. 6, 1866. He enjoyed in a large degree the respect and esteem of his associates at the Bar, and the community at large. He was an honest man, and a safe and judicious counsellor. Was honored by his fellow citizens with positions of honor and responsibility, serving as Representative to the Legislature in 1858, was several years on the Board of Selectmen and was postmaster from July 13, 1841, to Sept. 5, 1842, and again from June 10, 1850, to May 13, 1854. He was an honored member of the Masonic fraternity. His sense of justice was very acute, and of his life as a christian, a citizen and a lawyer, too much cannot be said.

CHARLES FIELD, is one of the senior members of the Worcester County Bar, and one of the vice presidents of Bar Association. He was born in Athol, June 9, 1815, where he lived until his father moved to Greenfield, in 1826. He was educated in the public schools and Fellenberg Academy, and fitted for college by Professor Coffin, but was obliged to relinquish a collegiate course on account of an affection of the eyes, threatening blindness, caused by over study. On the removal of his father to Troy, N. Y., in 1830, he became an inmate of the family of Hon. Daniel Wells, the leader of the Franklin County Bar, and afterwards Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, in whose office he studied law, and with whom he remained until he was twenty-two years of age. After his admission to the bar he spent four years in the West and Southwest, returning thence to Massachusetts and to his native town, where he has since resided and practiced his profession. In 1856, he was elected to the House of Rep-



HON. CHARLES FIELD.



representatives, and in the two years following to the State Senate, in which he rendered creditable and faithful service. In the fall of 1860, a few months before the Civil War, when politics were literally seething, he was chosen a Republican Presidential Elector, and with Chief Justice Chapman, John G. Whittier and others, few of whom survive, cast the electoral vote of Massachusetts for Abraham Lincoln and Hanibal Hamlin. Great interest attached to this vote in the Electoral College and in the country generally, for strong and impassioned appeals had been made to the electors, in view of the excited state of public feeling at the time touching the slavery question, to do nothing that would drive the southern states out of the Union, or to arms, which seemed probable if they voted for Lincoln and Hamlin. But the electors were unmoved by these appeals, and discharged the plain and patriotic duty for which they were chosen.

In 1862, Mr. Field was appointed an assistant assessor of the U. S. Internal Revenue, and held the office until the great majority of taxes under that system were abolished by Congress. Since then he has confined himself to the duties of his profession. On the establishment of the First District Court of Northern Worcester in 1884, he was appointed Justice of the same, and still holds that office. In 1856, he married Caroline C. Alden, a native of Greenwich, and a lineal descendent of John Alden, of Pilgrim memory, and has one son, Charles Field, Jr., who graduated at Williams College in the class of 1881, and follows his father's profession. In religious belief, Judge Field is a Unitarian of the conservative type. Prominently identi-

fied in the organization of the Second Unitarian Society in 1877, he has been for many years a member of its executive committee, and is now one of its most interested and attached members. He was president of the Worcester County Conference of Unitarian and other Christian churches, comprising thirty-three societies, for two successive terms, 1885-1887, declining a re-election.

Mr. Field is a charter member and President of the Poquaig Club, a social club embracing many of the business and professional men of the town, incorporated in 1891, which has become a popular and permanent institution.

GEORGE W. HERR, the senior member of the bar of Northwestern Worcester, was born in New Salem, June 22, 1829, and is descended from good old New England stock, his great grandfather, Robert Herr, having held an official position in the war of the Revolution, his duties being to collect forage for the army. His father was Major Warren Herr, and mother Sally Peirce (Sloan) Herr. He attended the district schools of his native town, and at thirteen years of age entered New Salem Academy, and when fifteen years old was teaching school, which he continued for three successive winters. Few young men of his day had the educational opportunities with which he was favored, for in addition to the training received at New Salem Academy, he was also a student at Quaboag Seminary, Warren, and Phillips Academy, Andover, and graduated from Williston Seminary, Easthampton, in 1848, as the Salutatorian in a class of twenty-eight. He entered Harvard College, Aug. 26, 1848, and received his certificate of matriculation from President Edward Everett,



GEORGE W. HORR.



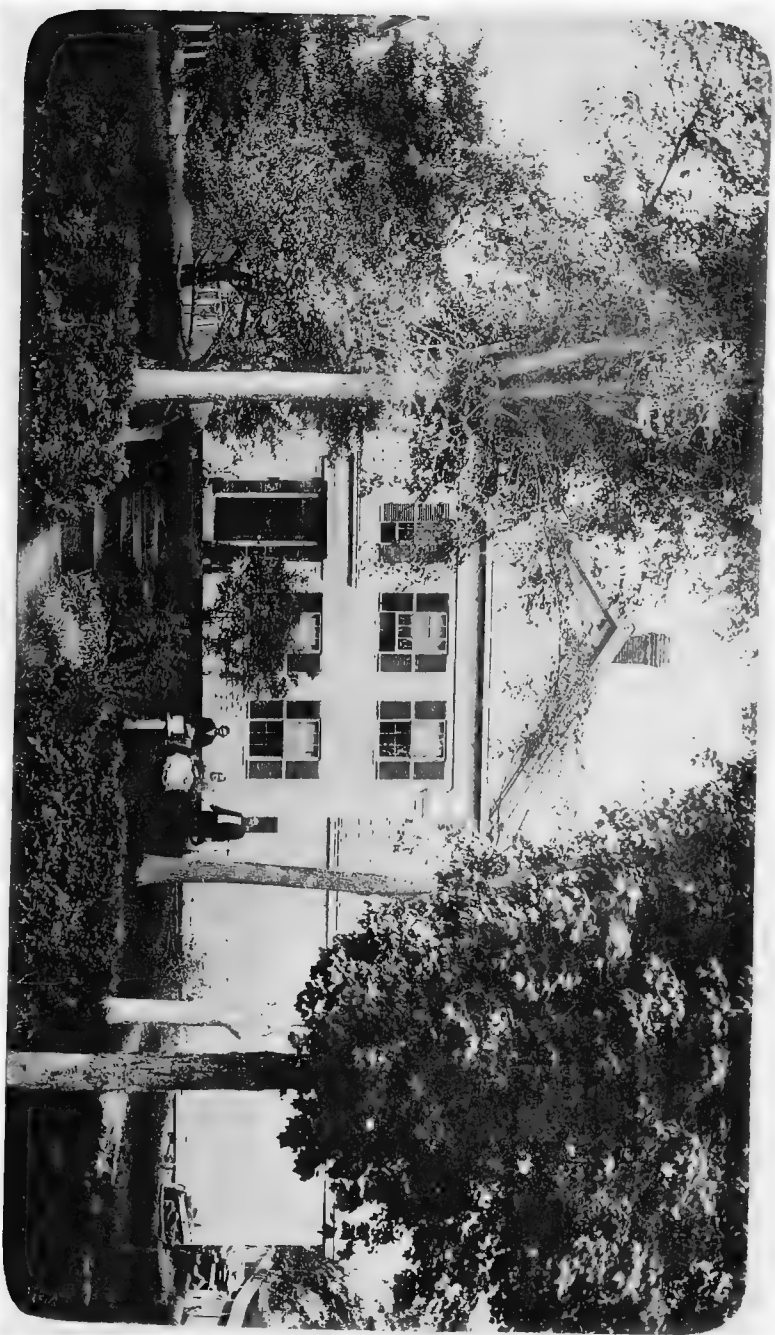


Jan. 11, 1849. He was a member of the Lawrence Scientific School, and the Harvard Law School, from the latter of which he received the degree of L. L. B. in 1860. Soon after graduating he entered the law office of George T. Davis and Charles Allen of Greenfield, and later was student and clerk in the law office of Lincoln, Maynard & Chatfield of New York City, the latter being Attorney-General of the State. He was admitted to the Massachusetts bar at Greenfield in 1860, and was admitted to practice in the United States Courts in 1870. He first opened an office in New Salem, but attracted by the enterprise of Athol, came to this town in 1863, where he has been in continuous and successful practice for more than a third of a century. His practice in the department of the Interior at Washington is extensive, his thorough knowledge of and success in pension claims having gained for him an extended reputation. Always interested in the cause of education, he was chairman of the School Committee of New Salem in 1859 and 1860, and was also chairman of the School Committee of Athol in 1874. While a resident of New Salem, he also frequently served as moderator at town meetings, and was chosen for two terms as Commissioner of Insolvency of Franklin County. He has also served frequently as moderator at some of the most important and exciting town meetings of Athol.

Notwithstanding his extensive professional business, Mr. Horr has always been engaged to quite an extent in literary work from 1854, when in company with the late Charles G. Colby, he organized a literary bureau in Brooklyn, N. Y. In 1876, he prepared interesting his-

torical articles on Athol for the Worcester West Chronicle, was author and compiler of the histories of Athol, Petersham, Royalston, Phillipston and Dana, for Jewett's History of Worcester County, published in 1879, and was also a contributor to Lewis History of the same County in 1889. He was the author of the sketch of his native town of New Salem, that appeared in the Centennial Souvenir of the Greenfield Gazette and Courier, and the Flora of Northern Worcester published in Picturesque Worcester, and is now engaged on an extended history of New Salem Academy.

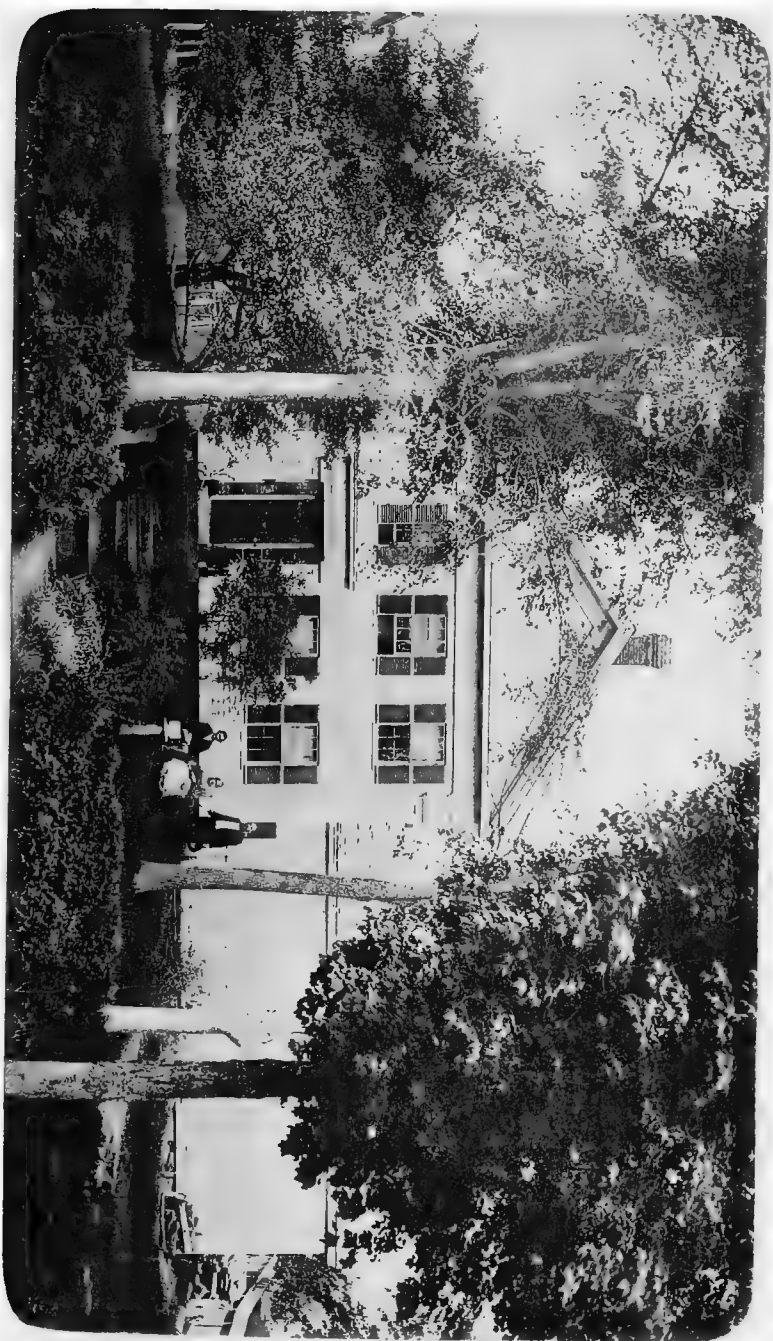
He is always a welcome speaker on public occasions, and his eloquence has stirred the people to hearty applause and deep feeling, as he has presented to them the political, educational and social questions of the day. Among the addresses delivered by him are: Addresses at the dedication of the town hall in Erving in 1875, at the dedication of the town hall of Warwick in 1895, the Centennial Fourth of July address in Athol in 1876, also a Fourth of July oration at a large gathering on the Worcester Northwest Fair Grounds in 1887, the first address delivered before the Worcester Northwest Agricultural & Mechanical Society, after its incorporation in 1867, the Memorial Day address at Hatfield in 1890, one at the annual meeting of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, of which he is a life member, in 1893, on "Academic System of Schools in Massachusetts," was the orator of the Alumni Association of New Salem Academy in 1890, elected the president of the Association in 1892, and gave an address at the Centennial of the Academy in 1895. He was one



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE W. HORR, ESQ.

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RESIDENCE OF GEORGE W. HORR, ESQ.



of the invited guests at the unveiling of the statue of Josiah Bartlett, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence, at Amesbury, Mass., July 4, 1888, and was one of the speakers on that occasion. For more than thirty years consecutively, he lectured before public schools, academies, lyceums, and other popular assemblies upon the subject of astronomy, illustrated by maps, charts and diagrams.

During the great civil war he enlisted in the 33d Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, but after three examinations was refused enrollment on account of severe injuries received before the war. He was an ardent supporter of the government through the war, and is a warm friend of the old soldiers, who always welcome him to their gatherings and listen to him with pleasure. He is an Associate member of the Hubbard V. Smith Post, G. A. R. In politics he has been a consistent democrat, and cast in 1865, for General Darius N. Couch, the democratic candidate for Governor, the only democratic vote polled in town that year. He is a member of the Harvard Law School Association and the Worcester County Bar Association.

SIDNEY P. SMITH was born in Princeton, Ill., July 13, 1850. His father was from Massachusetts, being a native of Hampshire County. He was educated in the common and High schools of his native town, and entered Amherst College in 1870, and graduated in 1874. After graduating, he taught school for two years in the West, and came to Athol in 1876, as principal of the Athol High school, which position he held until 1880, when he resigned to

pursue his law studies, which he did at the Union College of Law in Chicago, graduating in 1882, and was the same year admitted to the bar in Illinois. In the spring of 1883, he returned to Athol, was admitted to the Massachusetts bar, and commenced the practice of law in July, 1883. In 1884 he was elected a member of the School Committee and served three years. On the establishment of the First District Court of Northern Worcester in 1884, he was appointed one of the Special Justices, and was twice re-appointed after vacating the office while a member of the House of Representatives.

He represented the First Worcester District in the Legislature in 1887 and 1888, and was elected to the Senate from the Worcester-Hampshire District, serving in 1891 and 1892. He was a member of the Judiciary committee in both the House and Senate, and served on other important committees. Mr. Smith is a member of the Congregational church, and was for three years the Superintendent of its Sunday school. As moderator of town meetings for several years, he has gained a reputation as an able presiding officer. Prominently identified with all of the Masonic organizations in town, he was master of Athol lodge for two terms, and has been Worthy Patron of the Eastern Star. He married Miss Stella M. Parmenter, daughter of F. C. Parmenter, Dec. 26, 1879. They have three daughters.

HENRY M. BURLEIGH was born in Hartford, Conn., March 2, 1835. He was fitted by private tutors for the profession of law, and admitted to the bar of Suffolk County, in July, 1858. He settled in New York City,



where he practiced law until April 1861, when he enlisted in the First Regiment New York Volunteers under Col. Allen. He held various offices in his company and regiment, served as provost marshal of Camp Hamilton at Fortress Monroe, and in the spring of 1862, was commissioned by Abraham Lincoln as assistant adjutant general, and assigned for duty on the staff of Brigadier General Max Weber, with whose command he went to Newport News, May 8, 1862. The following September, with General Max Weber and four regiments of infantry, he joined the army of McClellan, and participated in the battle of Antietam, in which he was badly wounded by a shot through the right shoulder. After recovering from his wound he was assigned to duty in Washington, later at Harper's Ferry, and was then assigned to Custers' division of Sheridan's Cavalry Corps at Winchester, and served in the Shenandoah Valley campaign until the surrender of Lee at Appomattox, April 9, 1865. After the war he returned to New York, and soon after located in Levanworth, Kansas, where he practiced his profession seven years, holding the office of United States Commissioner for five years, and also served two terms as prosecuting attorney of Allen County. While in Kansas he married Clare Hoyt, daughter of Dr. George Hoyt of Athol, April 22, 1869. In 1872, he came to Athol, where he engaged in the practice of his profession. He was appointed by Governor Russell as one of the special justices of the First District Court of Northern Worcester. He was prominent in Grand Army circles, was one of the early Commanders of Parker Post, and in 1893, was appointed Judge Advo-

cate of the Department of Massachusetts. He was a member of St. John's Episcopal church, and Superintendent of its Sunday School for three years. He died March 2, 1894.

EDGAR V. WILSON was born in Winchendon, Mass., July 1, 1847. His early childhood was passed in Winchendon, Gardner and Baldwinville, and when about five years of age, his parents removed to New Hampshire, where his early education was obtained in the schools of Stoddard and Sullivan. From the latter place he entered Cornell University, from which he was graduated in 1872. After teaching school several terms he read law with Wheeler & Falkner in Keene, N. H., and was admitted to practice in the New Hampshire courts in 1875, with a year's less study than is usually necessary. In 1876, he was admitted to the Massachusetts bar at Greenfield, and after a few months practice in Orange, came to Athol in May, 1876, where he has continued to practice his profession to the present time. He was appointed Trial Justice by Governor Long which position he held until 1883. For several years he was prominent in political affairs, and was an active member of the republican town committee during some of the most exciting campaigns ever held in town. He has been prominently identified with the educational interests of the town, and for several years devoted much of his time to school work, serving as a member of the school committee seven years. He has been auditor for the town several years, and was a member of the Sewer Commissioners during the construction of the sewer system. He married Miss Emma M. Pollard of Woodstock, Vt., July 23, 1879.



EDGAR V. WILSON.



CHARLES FIELD, JR., son of Judge Charles Field, was born in Cambridge, Mass. His early education was obtained in the schools of Athol. He was fitted for college at Phillips Academy, Andover, and with private tutors, and graduated from Williams College in 1881. He studied law in his father's office for two years, was two years in the Boston Law School, and was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in June, 1886.

JOSEPH A. TITUS, son of Vernon and Mary (Moore) Titus, was born in Leicester, Mass., January 21, 1838. His ancestors on his father's side settled at Rehoboth, Mass., about 1640, and his mother was a descendant of one of the first settlers of the city of Worcester. He attended the public schools of his native town and Leicester Academy, from which he graduated in 1859, and entered Amherst College. At the close of his junior year he enlisted in the 42d Regiment Mass. Volunteers, and was 1st Sergeant of his company. After the term of service of his regiment expired, he taught school in North Brookfield, and had charge of the High School of Leicester for two years, with the exception of five months, which he spent in the army as 1st Lieut. of Co. F, 60th Regiment Mass. Volunteers. He commenced his legal studies in the office of Judge Henry Chapin and Appleton Dadmun in Worcester, and in the year 1868, was admitted to the bar, and opened an office in Worcester, where he remained till the summer of 1891. Ill health obliged him to give up active practice in the city, and he went to Orange, Mass., where he took up the practice of his profession, and from which place he came to Athol in 1894. After his return from

the army to private life, he remained in the military service of the state of Massachusetts for nearly twelve years, commanding the Worcester City Guards for four years, and serving the remainder of the period as chief of staff, under the command of Brigadier General Robert H. Chamberlain, of the 3d Brigade Mass. Volunteer Militia. In 1868, he was appointed Associate Justice of the Municipal Court of Worcester by Governor Bullock, which office he retained until that court was abolished in 1872. In 1872 he was elected a member of the Legislature from the city of Worcester for the year 1873. He also served two years as a member of the Common Council of the city of Worcester. He is a charter member of Geo. H. Ward Post, No. 10, G. A. R., and was for nearly three years its commander. He has spoken in nearly every town in Worcester County on the varied topics connected with politics, agriculture, Memorial Day services and other matters. In 1868, he was married to Bertha G. Manning of Worcester, who died October 29, 1894. He has three children, George A. Titus and Albert G. Titus, now of Boston, and a daughter, Bertha M. Titus, now residing in Worcester.

Sketches of Farwell F. Fay and Geo. H. Hoyt, prominent as Athol lawyers, will be found in other chapters of the history. Other members of the green bag fraternity, whose names appear as practicing in Athol are: Frederic H. Allen, a graduate of the University of Vermont, Wm. Bliss, graduate of Harvard College in 1818, Ephraim Hinds, graduate of Harvard in 1805, Wm. H. Jewell, who was admitted to the bar in 1883, Henry Hogan, ad-

mitted to the bar in 1888, Simeon Saunderson, admitted in 1820, J. C. B. Ward, and Geo. H. Graves, who was a graduate of the Albany Law School.

**TRIAL JUSTICES.** In the early part of this century law cases both civil and criminal were tried before a Justice of the Peace. For many years Eliphalet Thorpe was the magistrate of Athol before whom cases were tried. In 1858, an act was passed by the Legislature as follows; "The justices of peace, designated and commissioned under chapter one hundred and thirty-eight, of the Statutes of 1858, shall continue to hold their offices and powers, according to the tenor of their several commissions; and the governor with the advice and consent of the council, shall from time to time designate and commission in the several counties a suitable number of justices of the peace as trial justices."

Under this act, the following Trial Justices, residing in Athol, have been appointed for the County of Worcester, the term of appointment being three years: Isaac Stevens, May 7, 1858, and held the office until his death, Sept. 6, 1866. Franklin R. Haskell, Dec. 4, 1866, was re-appointed twice. Thomas D. Brooks, June 25, 1873. Samuel M. Osgood, Jan. 4, 1876, resigned Dec. 31, 1878. Enoch T. Lewis, Nov. 30, 1878. Edgar V. Wilson, May 12, 1880. Lilley B. Caswell, June 13, 1883. Before the terms for which Enoch T. Lewis and Lilley B. Caswell were appointed had terminated, the First District Court of Northern Worcester was established, and the powers of all Trial Justices within the towns included in the district ceased.

DISTRICT COURT. The act establishing the First District Court for Northern Worcester, was approved in May, 1884, and took full effect July 1st, of that year. The towns included in the district were Athol, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Templeton, Gardner and Hubbardston. The court is held in the towns of Athol and Gardner. Charles Field was appointed Justice, James Stiles and Sidney P. Smith, Special Justices, and Julian Dunn, Clerk. In December, 1889, Charles B. Boyce was appointed clerk, which position he now holds, and Henry M. Burleigh was serving as Special Justice at the time of his death, in 1894. The officers now holding the positions are the same as first appointed, with the exception of Clerk.

DEPUTY SHERIFFS. Of the residents of Athol who have held the office of Deputy Sheriff, we find the names of William Bigelow and Joseph Pierce, as holding the office previous to 1807. Since that time the office has been held by the following: James Oliver, 1807-28; Flavel Humphrey and Abijah Hill, 1828-38; John H. Partridge, 1838-59; Gardiner Lord, 1859-90; Albert W. Tyler, 1890-94, and Roswell L. Doane, the present incumbent, who was appointed in January, 1894.

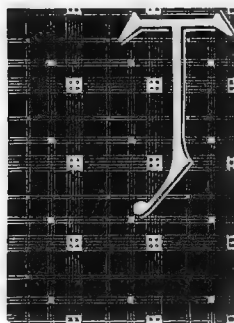


## CHAPTER XIII.

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### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

"Nothing is more estimable than a physician who, having studied nature from his youth, knows the properties of the human body, the diseases which assail it, the remedies which will benefit it, exercises his art with caution, and pays equal attention to the rich and the poor."



THE first physician of Athol was Dr. Joseph Lord, one of the first five settlers of the town, who had practiced his profession in Sunderland, Mass. Among the early doctors of the town were Dr. Daniel Ellinwood, Dr. Royal Humphrey, a son of Rev. James Humphrey, and Dr. Joshua Morton, who was born in Athol Oct. 20, 1744, and was a life long and successful physician. He died Feb. 13, 1827. His home was on the place now occupied by J. W. Sawyer. He was much interested in town affairs, and was town treasurer from 1788 to 1793. Among the doctors of the early part of the present century were: Dr. Ebenezer Chaplin, who is described as a tall portly man. He lived on the east side of the common at the Highlands, and was prominent in political and town affairs, representing the town two years in the Legislature, and was also one of the

selectmen. Dr. Jacob Holmes was an old school gentleman, who lived in the house now occupied by Gilbert Southard. He was succeeded by Dr. George Hoyt, and removed to Leicester, where he practiced from 1834 to 1847.

DR. WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS was born in Deerfield, June 28, 1792. Among his ancestors were the first minister of Deerfield, and the founder of Williams College. His father was a physician of Deerfield, and the son studied medicine there. His first wife was Marietta Stebbins, daughter of Col. Asa Stebbins of Deerfield, a descendant of one of the early settlers of the town, by whom he had three children. Mr. Williams came to Athol about 1816, and in 1822 married Frances Humphrey, a granddaughter of the first minister of the town. They had two children, John H. Williams and Mary Hoyt Williams, who married Rev. Crawford Nightingale. Dr. Williams, in addition to his profession, was largely interested in public and town affairs, having served as postmaster of the town from 1837 to 1847, with the exception of a little more than a year, was town clerk from 1829 to 1833, served on the school committee, was a Justice of the Peace, and a surgeon in the militia. After withdrawing from active practice, he kept the only drug store in town. He died June 22, 1855, and Mrs. Williams, who lived to the age of ninety years and three months, died in 1887.

DR. GEORGE HOYT was born in Deerfield, Mass., April 17, 1801, a son of Ebenezer Hoyt, and a descendant of Lieut. Jonathan Hoyt, who was taken captive by the Indians and carried to Canada. One of his ancestors owned



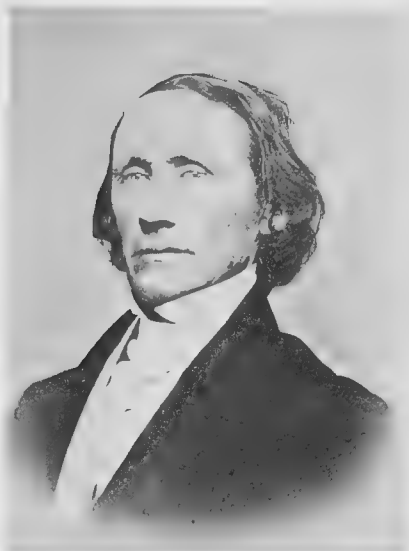
DR. GEORGE D. COLONY.



DR. WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS.



DR. MARSHALL L. LINDSEY.



DR. GEORGE HOYT.



and occupied the "Old Indian House" in Deerfield. He attended the Deerfield Academy, and graduated at the Pittsfield Medical School, and then practiced in the hospitals of Boston, especially in surgery. He commenced practice in Hubbardston, Mass., where he remained two years, and where he married Miss Avaline Witt, the eldest daughter of Clark Witt, Esq. Removed to Athol in 1832, and succeeded Dr. Jacob Holmes, who lived where Gilbert Southard now resides. He had a large medical practice, and was one of the first to introduce the use of water medically in baths, etc., establishing a Water Cure, which became quite extensively known. He was an active abolitionist and reformer, and espoused the cause of the slave when it was unpopular and even dangerous to do so. At one time, while speaking against slavery in an evening meeting, the minister pronounced the benediction.

His action in a habeus corpus case, where he caused a young slave who had been brought to Athol by his mistress, to be liberated, caused great excitement at the time, and was the first case of the kind in Massachusetts. The young negro, who was nine or ten years of age, lived in the families of Dr. Hoyt and Rev. Richard Chipman for several years, and attended the Athol schools. For his position in this affair he was almost mobbed, and was threatened so that he did not dare to ride about the town with his gig without carrying stones in it as weapons for his protection. In 1851, he removed to Boston, where he resided for five years, and then returned to Athol and purchased what was known as the Morton place, now the residence of Dr. James Oliver, which was henceforth his

home, until his death. June 24, 1866. He was deeply interested in the business and social life of Athol, and built the first mill where the Hapgood & Smith match factory now stands. He was also for several years a member of the school committee, in which position he did excellent service. He was a great student during his whole life, and was especially interested in the science of Geology, accompanying Prof. Hitchcock about the state in his geological investigations. He had two children, George H. and Clare, who married H. M. Burleigh, Esq.

DR. GEO. D. COLONY was born in Keene, N. H., May 6, 1821, and graduated at Dartmouth College in 1843. After graduating, he studied medicine with Dr. Amos Twitchell at Keene, attended the Woodstock Medical School, and graduated from the Medical College of the University of Pennsylvania in 1846. He came to Athol, August 6, 1846. One of his first professional calls after coming to town, was to the terrible accident, when a railroad bridge on the Vermont & Massachusetts Railroad went down and several were killed. His cotemporaries in Athol during most of his practice here were, Dr. George Hoyt and Dr. Wm. H. Williams. He was for a number of years a popular member of the school committee. He was married May 23, 1849, to Harriet N. Stevens, daughter of Isaac Stevens. He removed to Fitchburg, May 1, 1861, where he has continued in the practice of his profession to the present time.

When Dr. Hoyt removed to Boston, in 1851, he sold his practice and Water Cure establishment to Dr. J. H. Hero. Dr. Hero is said to have been a man of unusual





**DR. JAMES P. LYNDE.**



natural ability, endowed by nature with a commanding physique and a pleasing manner. He ran the Water Cure for several years with varying success, and sold out to Dr. George Field, who, after a few years gave up the business. For a number of years previous to 1856, Dr. Austin was a well known physician of the town. He died from the results of an accident on the Phillipston road, and was succeeded by Dr. James P. Lynde.

DR. JAMES P. LYNDE. Of the members of the medical profession in Athol, the one best known to the present generation was Dr. James P. Lynde, who was for more than a third of a century a prominent factor in the professional, social and educational life of the town. Dr. Lynde was born in Gardner, March 19, 1828, and was the oldest son of Wm. S. and Christiana Comee Lynde. His early education was obtained in the common and private schools of that town, and at Lawrence Academy in Groton. He studied medicine with Dr. Harriman of Gardner, and the late Dr. Ira Russell of Winchendon, attended medical lectures at the Dartmouth Medical School, and at the Medical department of Harvard University, where he graduated March 3, 1852. The same year he commenced the practice of medicine in Hardwick, Mass., where he remained until 1856. While in Hardwick he represented that town in the Legislature of 1855. He removed to Athol in 1856; for a period of thirty-four years continued in the active practice of his profession, until his death, Jan. 28, 1890. He was an earnest investigator in his profession, and associated himself with various medical societies, being a member of the Massachusetts Medical

Society, and also was one of the seventeen original subscribers to the constitution and by-laws of the Worcester North District Medical Society, of which he was at one time president; he was also one of the founders of the Millers River Medical Society. Though devoted to his profession, he was a public spirited citizen, and took an active interest in all measures for the advancement of his town and the community. Educational interests always found in him an active worker, and for several years he held the position of school committee and superintendent of schools, and was often called upon to serve the town as moderator of town meetings, and in other capacities. Interested in Agriculture, he was one of the organizers of the Worcester Northwest Agricultural Society, was its first President, and its delegate on the State Board of Agriculture from 1880, until his death; he was also a member of the Board of Control of the Amherst Experimental station, and for some time its treasurer. As a public speaker he was listened to with interest, and delivered well prepared papers before the State Board of Agriculture, farmers institutes and medical societies, his annual address before the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1887, on "Pure milk as a diet for infants," being received with more than usual enthusiasm, while his address on "Sanitary Conditions of the Home and Farm," was most favorably received at various farmers' institutes.

In whatever position he was placed, he brought to the discharge of his duties, life and enthusiasm, and impressed upon his associates, a great degree of the same spirit that animated himself. On the organization of the present sys-

tem of Medical Examiners, he was appointed the Medical Examiner of this district, which position he held until his death.

In 1857, Dr. Lynde married Miss Candace Brooks, a daughter of John Brooks, a prominent and wealthy citizen, and proprietor of the up town hotel, known as "Brooks tavern." They had two children, Helen and James P., both of whom survive, the latter being engaged in the drug business at Palmer. A memorial of him, prepared by his associates of the Worcester North District Medical Association, has the following to say of him: "His social qualities, his general intelligence and cultivation, added to his professional accomplishments, made him among his patients, as among his friends generally, a most entertaining and agreeable companion, and won for him in the community in which he lived, many warm and devoted admirers. His surviving professional friends and associates, who mourn his loss and cherish his memory, will not soon forget his cheerful presence, his sympathetic nature, his unfailing humor, his entertaining anecdote, and the overflow of good spirits, which added so much to the pleasure of all brought into his association."

Other physicians who practiced in Athol at different periods between 1860 and 1880, are: Dr. Kendall Davis, Dr. J. B. Gould, Dr. James Coolidge, who was eminently successful in his profession, and who died in the prime of manhood from a disease produced by nervous prostration and excessive professional labor, Dr. O. M. Drury, Dr. M. F. Cragin, Dr. Alfred G. Williams, who served in the army in the rebellion, as assistant surgeon, Dr. Vernon O.

Taylor, Dr. Jackson, Dr. Kemp, Dr. King, Dr. Chamberlain, Dr. Donnell, Dr. Simmonds, Dr. D. A. Chase, Dr. D. D. Davis, Dr. F. Broons, and Dr. H. A. Deane, who was a well known physician in town from 1860 to 1879, when he removed to South Hadley, and later to Easthampton, where he is now located.

DR. SAMUEL H. COLBURN was a graduate of the Hahnemann Homœopathic Institution of Philadelphia in 1870, and came to Athol from Springfield, Vt., in October, 1875, opening an office in the bank building. He secured an extensive and successful practice, which he continued until May, 1883, when he removed to Worcester. He returned to Athol with impaired health in the autumn of 1888, and died Aug. 22, 1890, aged sixty-four years. Previous to entering the medical profession he was a Methodist minister in the Vermont Conference for sixteen years. His widow, one daughter and one son still live in town.

Among those who have practiced in town since 1880, not residing here now, are Dr. A. W. Parsons and his brother, Dr. C. W. Parsons, Dr. H. R. Dunne, now of Westerly, R. I., Dr. Geo. L. Perry, removed to Petersham, Dr. H. O. Dunbar, who came to Athol in 1873, and was a prominent physician until his death, Dec. 27, 1894. Dr. Sumner T. Smith, a graduate from the College of Medicine of the University of Michigan, and who had a large practice in Alstead, N. H., for more than twenty years, practiced in Athol for a few years previous to his death, which took place March 26, 1892.

Of the resident physicians at the present time, Dr. James Oliver is the senior in practice. A sketch of him will be found in another chapter of this work.

DR. MARSHALL L. LINDSEY, son of Dr. Daniel Lindsey, was born in Swanzey, N. H., Dec. 9, 1831. His parents removed to New Salem in 1832, and from there to Petersham in 1834, where he attended the public schools, and also was a student at New Salem Academy for several terms. In 1849, he removed with his parents to North Dana, where he commenced studying medicine with his father. In August, 1855, he went to the Berkshire Medical College, and in December of the same year entered Harvard Medical School, and after leaving there, practiced with his father until 1862, when he again attended lectures at Harvard, graduating in March, 1863. He then returned to North Dana, and practiced there until 1882, when he removed to Athol, where he has since practiced his profession. He married Luella M. Sly of Webster, Mass., May 14, 1878.

DR. CHARLES H. FORBES was born in Millville, N. J., Jan. 25, 1860; when about five years of age his parents moved to Monson, Mass., where he lived about ten years and attended the public schools of that town. The remainder of his early life was spent in Brookfield and West Brookfield, and he graduated from the High school of the last named town. He pursued his medical studies at the New York Homœopathic College and Hospital, from which he graduated in 1883, and immediately commenced to practice his profession at Athol in the spring of 1883, where he still continues in practice. He was married to Miss Eva L. Bush, daughter of H. W. Bush, Esq., of West Brookfield, Nov. 14, 1883. Mr. Forbes is a member of the Worcester County, and Western Massachusetts

Homœopathic Societies, and is also a prominent member of the Masonic and Odd Fellow organizations, and a member of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island Knights Templars.

Dr. HIRAM H. BURNS was born at Kingston, Mass., in 1856. His early education was received in the public schools of his native town, and he graduated from the Kingston High school in the class of 1876. Entering Tufts College in the class of 1880, he graduated as valedictorian of his class, having attained the highest average during his four years course, of any student in that Institution for years. After leaving College, he was a teacher for four years, being Assistant in Natural Sciences at the Marlboro, Mass. High School, Principal of the Hollis, N. H. High School, and teacher of Natural Sciences at Dean Academy, Franklin, Mass. Mr. Burns then turned his attention to the study of medicine, studying with Dr. J. B. Brewster of Plymouth, Mass., and also taking the course at the Harvard Medical School, from which he graduated in 1887; practiced for a short time at Kingston, his native town, and removed to Athol, in February, 1888, where he has since practiced, moving to the Upper Village in February, 1890. He was married in March, 1888, to Sarah B. Faunce, of Kingston, Mass., a graduate of Wellesley College, and former Principal of Kingston High School. Dr. Burns is a member of the following medical societies; American Medical Association, Massachusetts Medical Society, Harvard Medical Alumni Association, and Millers River Medical Society. Also of the Tufts College Alumni.



DR. HIRAM H. BURNS.



DR. ALPHONZO V. BOWKER.



DR. WINDSOR A. BROWN.



DR. CHARLES H. FORBES.





DR. ALPHONZO V. BOWKER was born in Savoy, Mass., Jan. 17, 1857. His parents moved to Bernardston, Mass. in 1865, which was his home until he commenced the practice of his profession. His education was obtained at Powers' Institute, and he graduated from the medical department of the University of Vermont, in June, 1879. He then practiced for two years in Millers Falls, after which he took a post graduate course in the hospital of Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He returned to Millers Falls, where he practiced his profession until he came to Athol, in 1890. While in Millers Falls he was a member of the school committee of Montague for several years, and also served on the Board of Health of that town. He married E. Louise Amidon of Millers Falls, in November, 1884.

DR. H. R. THAYER, born in Pittsford, Vt., November 5, 1819. Graduated from the Hahnemann Homœopathic School, Philadelphia, in March, 1855. Was in the South from 1855 to 1860, and had a large practice in the city of Augusta, Georgia, from which place he was driven out with his family just before the war, because he was a northern man. He practiced in Athol from 1871 to 1876, when he removed to Boston, and returned to Athol in February, 1892, where he has since practiced.

DR. W. L. EDGAR, a graduate of the Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia, in 1894, and commenced practice in Athol, in June of that year.

DR. LILLEY EATON, graduated at the Dartmouth Medical College in 1892, served in the Boston City Hospital, as assistant superintendent and physician at the Hospital Cot-

tages for children at Baldwinville, and commenced practice in Athol, in January, 1895.

DR. HARRIE M. GARDNER, a graduate of the Medical School of the University of Vermont, at Burlington, in 1895, commenced to practice in Athol, in July of that year.

DR. WINDSOR A. BROWN, is a native of Aurora, Ill., where he was born Nov. 15, 1868. He graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Vermont in 1889, practiced in Oakham and North Brookfield, and came to Athol, in October, 1895.

DR. GARRETT LARKEQUE commenced practice in Athol in 1894.

W. F. WHITMAN has been employed as a Medical Clairvoyant upwards of forty years. He was born in Palmer, Mass., Dec. 10, 1825, and came to Athol in 1857. O. S. Wheeler has also had quite an extensive practice in the same profession for more than fifteen years in Athol.

DENTISTS. The first dentist in town was Dr. John H. Williams, a son of Dr. Wm. H. Williams, who was born Aug. 24, 1824. He studied dentistry with Dr. Ball of Boston, and was engaged in the business for twenty-five years. He also combined the drug business with his dentistry, and was engaged in that for about thirty years, being for a long time the only druggist in town. He was one of the most genial and companionable of men, and had a strong vein of humor hidden under a surface appearing to be the opposite. He was for nearly four years postmaster of the Centre office. He married Harriett M. Ball, Oct. 14, 1850. His death took place Aug. 22, 1875.

Dr. H. M. Humphrey studied dentistry in Boston for two years, and then took a course in the Philadelphia Dental College, from which he graduated and received his degree of D. D. S., and practiced ten years.

DR. H. C. SMITH, the senior member of the dental profession, was born in Cooperstown, N. Y., where his father was a manufacturer, in 1837. He attended the schools of that town and Hartwick Seminary. He pursued his studies at the Baltimore Dental College, and studied dentistry with Dr. Robinson, of Watertown, N. Y. In December, 1861, he commenced to practice dentistry in Athol, and has been engaged in his profession continuously, to the present time. His first office was in the old Foster house, now owned by A. J. Hamilton, and for many years in the old Bank building, until he moved into his present office in Webb's block. He was married in 1861, to Sarah F. Steere, daughter of Rev. M. J. Steere, of Providence, R. I.

DR. E. WARD COOKE studied dentistry with Dr. H. C. Smith, and finished his dental studies at the Dental College in Philadelphia. He commenced practice for himself in Athol in 1875, and remained here eight years, going to Cambridge in August, 1883, and has continued in practice there to the present time. He married Etta J. Lewis, June 16, 1875.

Dr. J. J. Coxeter commenced to study dentistry with Dr. L. F. Tolman in 1876, and afterwards was in partnership with him for three years, when he opened an office for himself, and practiced here until 1888, when he removed to Newton.

Dr. C. E. Smith first studied his profession in the office of Dr. L. F. Locke, of Nashua, N. H., his native city. He graduated from the Dental Department of the University at Pennsylvania, in 1888, with the degree of D. D. S. He came to Athol in 1888, purchasing the business of Dr. J. J. Coxeter. He now has an office in the Bank building, and has a good practice.

DR. L. F. TOLMAN was born in Fitchburg in 1843. When the rebellion broke out, in 1861, he enlisted in the sixth New Hampshire Infantry, and served until the close of the war. After the war he studied dentistry with Dr. Stebbins, of Shelburne Falls, for three years, and continued in his office until 1875, when he removed to Athol, having purchased the dental business of Dr. James Hemenway. He continued in the practice of his profession until partial blindness compelled him to give up business, when he was succeeded by his son, Leon C. Tolman, in 1894.

Dr. James Hemenway practiced dentistry in town for many years, and others of recent years have been Dr. A. O. Stoddard and Dr. V. W. Leach, who had offices at the Highlands.

## CHAPTER XIV.

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### OLD ATHOL FAMILIES.

"If, however, a man says that he does not care to know where his grandfather lived, what he did, and what were that grandfather's politics and religious creed, it can merely mean that he is incapable of taking interest in one of the most interesting forms of human knowledge—the knowledge of the details of the Past."



N this chapter we give sketches of some of the old Athol families, whose history is intertwined with that of the town through many decades. Although much attention has been paid to the ancestry of many families, yet we have not attempted a complete genealogy of all branches of the various families of whom sketches are given. Sketches of the heads of families, and some of the most important members, who have been residents of this town, or who have gone out into other communities and become distinguished in various walks of life will be given. Among the families selected are the Lords, Mortons, Olivers, Humphreys, Kendalls, Morses, Sweetsters, Estabrooks, Havens, Goddards and others.

## THE LORDS.

Of the first five settlers of old Pequig, the one whose family has been most prominently identified with the town through all the generations to the present time, was Joseph Lord.

The first ancestor of the Lords in New England was Robert Lord of Ipswich, whose name appears on the records of that town as a freeman in 1636, and a representative in 1638. He was town clerk, clerk of the courts and register of deeds. He married Mary Waite, and had eight children. He died in 1638. Of his children, Thomas, born in 1633 at Ipswich, married Alice Rand; they had eight children. Of these, Joseph Lord, was born in Charlestown, Mass., June 30, 1672, and graduated at Harvard College in 1691. From 1692 to 1695, probably, he taught the school in Dorchester. He married Abigail, daughter of Governor Thomas Hinckley, (by his first wife) on the third of June, 1698. In the fall of 1695, a church was gathered in Dorchester with the design of removing to South Carolina, and Joseph Lord was ordained as pastor. He accompanied the church to that state and remained as its pastor over twenty years, when he returned to Massachusetts, and in 1720 was installed pastor of the church in Chatham, where he continued to preach until his death in 1748. His diary containing many interesting notes and observations relative to the church and people on the Cape, is said to be in existence. He had eight children, of whom Joseph and Abigail were born Sept. 27, 1704.

JOSEPH LORD, who was one of the first five settlers of

Athol, was graduated at Harvard College in 1726, and practiced medicine for a time in Sunderland, Mass., being the first physician of that town. In September, 1735, with four others, he came to Pequoig, and commenced the first settlement of this town; his dwelling was located on the "Street," on the place known for a long time as the Humphrey place. He appears to have been the principal man among the company of settlers, both in education and influence, and was the first clerk of the Proprietors, which office he continued to hold up to Oct. 18, 1758. He was during all these years the leading spirit in ancient Pequoig, being the first doctor, the first preacher, the first magistrate, the first treasurer, the first tax gatherer, the first surveyor, in fact, as an old manuscript has it, he was "Boss and all hands." At length a misunderstanding arose between Mr. Lord and the proprietors, the particular cause for which it is impossible for us to satisfactorily determine. For some reason he refused to give up the records, and an action was commenced against him for the recovery of the books, records, plans etc. The court rendered judgment against Mr. Lord in November, 1759, for one thousand pounds. The result was that Mr. Lord left Pequoig and went to Putney, Vt., then New Hampshire, where he lived for thirty years, holding high and responsible positions. By commissions dated the 16th of July, 1766, he was appointed second judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, and a justice of the peace for Cumberland County. These commissions were renewed on two subsequent occasions, and he was continued in office until the commencement of the Revolution. He was also ap-

pointed by a writ of *dedimus potestatem*, a commissioner to "swear all officers" chosen in that county, and held the office until the 14th of April, 1772. A few months previous to the time for appointing judges, in the year 1772, Mr. Lord was desirous of withdrawing from the service of the province. In his letter to Governor Tyron, dated the 29th of January, he declared his reasons for wishing to retire, in these words: "I being now arrived at the sixty-eighth year of my age, and attended with the infirmities common to advancing years, such as great deafness, loss of memory, dimness of sight, and at times, a paralytic tremor in my hands, etc., which disqualifies me for the full, free, and perfect discharge of the offices of second judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, and justice of the peace, which I have sustained in the county for several years last past, and having a desire to retire from public business and spend the remainder of my days in a calm retirement therefrom, and concern myself in nothing else, but doing good to my numerous family and neighbors, and praying for the King, your Excellency, and all others, the King's officers, and prepare for a glorious Immortality—therefore humbly entreat your Excellency to appoint some other person to said offices in my room and stead."

Having been informed that his colleague had tendered his resignation, Judge Chandler wrote to Governor Tryon, begging him to continue Judge Lord in office in the next commission, and suggesting the propriety of rewarding him for his past services—especially for his efforts in quelling a disturbance, in which the inhabitants of Windsor had been engaged. Previous to this time the court had



been constituted with three judges. A fourth was added at the next commission, and Judge Lord was continued, but with the understanding that he was to take only "as little share of the burden of the office" upon himself as should be agreeable to him. Governor Tyron wrote him in a letter dated the 3d of April, 1772: "His Excellency desirous of retaining in office the most respectable persons in the county, could not think of appointing any person in your stead." Hall, the historian of Vermont, says of him: "Respecting his abilities, there are no means of deciding; but of his uprightness and candor as a man and as a judicial officer, there can be no doubt. The little that is known of this worthy magistrate is so favorable, that a natural regret arises at the absence of the data which might supply the details of his life, character and services."

He died at Westmoreland, N. H., Dec. 7, 1788, in the 85th year of his age, having moved to that place from Putney, some time before.

Dr. Joseph Lord had seven children, viz: Joseph, born April 17, 1730, William, born May 3, 1732, Mary, born May 2, 1733, Thomas, born Jan. 17, 1736, the first winter after the settlers arrived in Athol, Stephen, Nathaniel and Sarah, who married Judge Thomas Chandler of Vermont. Thomas Lord, the third son of Dr. Joseph Lord, married Leonard Smith, Oct. 18, 1760. He was one of the Athol minute men who marched to Lexington, being sergeant of the company, and was afterwards captain of a company that went to Bennington. He had eleven children: Asa, born Oct. 1, 1761, married Lydia Humphrey, Joseph,<sup>2</sup> born Oct. 26, 1763, married Esther Johnson, Aaron, born<sup>3</sup>

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Dec. 25, 1766, married Hannah Graves, Abigail,<sup>4</sup> born July 7, 1772, married Abijah Ellis, Abel,<sup>5</sup> born March 12, 1774, died in 1799, Rhoda,<sup>6</sup> born March 1, 1776, Thomas, Jr.,<sup>7</sup> born Jan. 17, 1780, was a hotel keeper at Northfield, Jotham,<sup>8</sup> born June 4, 1783, married Julia Allen in 1806, Leonard,<sup>9</sup> born in 1785, Gardiner,<sup>10</sup> born April 8, 1788, married Nancy Young, and Absalom,<sup>11</sup> born June 30, 1790. Jotham Lord, the sixth son of Capt. Thomas Lord had ten children.

ETHAN LORD, the second child, was born in Athol, Aug. 9, 1808. In his twentieth year he left home, and came to what was then known as the factory village, to begin life for himself. His fidelity to his parents and love for them was shown, when his father had lost a number of cattle by disease, and in consequence was forced to mortgage his little farm. This misfortune weighed heavily upon Ethan, and at the end of his first years service, he carried home his entire earnings, one hundred dollars, and gave it to his father to clear off the mortgage. He was married Sept. 6, 1836, to Thankful Richardson of Swanzey, N. H. He had a saw mill and grist mill on Freedom street, and carried on business there for more than fifty years. He bought large tracts of real estate in the village and near by, that at the time of his death had become some of the most desirable property in town. He always shrank from positions of a public nature, was a man of unflinching integrity, just and exact in his business dealings, and generous in every cause to every person that appeared to him as worthy. Was identified with the old First Church until the founding of the Sec-



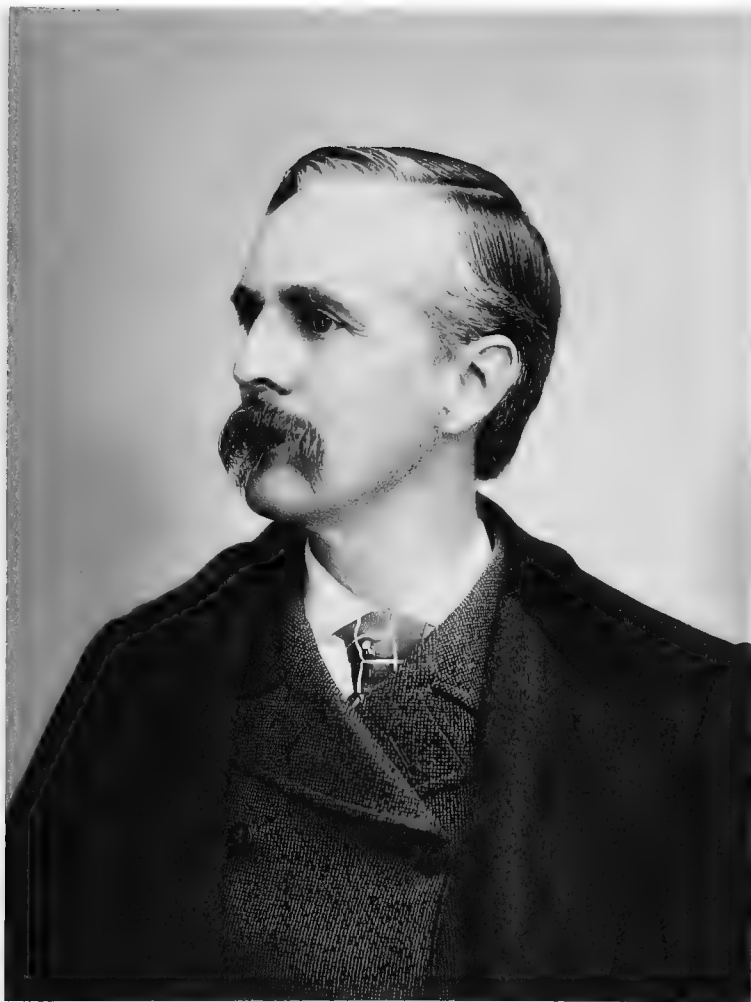
ETHAN LORD.



ond Unitarian church, when he became an earnest supporter of the latter. He had three sons and two daughters: Ethan, Jr., Lucien, Wallace, Sabra J. and Mary. Sabra married Dr. Vernon O. Taylor, and Mary married John L. Earle.

LUCIEN LORD was born in Athol, Oct. 11, 1840, a son of Ethan and Thankful (Richardson) Lord. He attended the village schools, and at an early age went to work for his father in the lumber and saw mill business. When the war broke out Mr. Lord wished to enlist, but ill health prevented him, and he purchased the store of H. R. Barber on Exchange street. A year later he sold the business and went into the store of Walter Thorpe and J. W. Sloan as clerk, where he remained three years. He then went in company with Howard B. Hunt, who was then the village postmaster, in the book and music business. In 1869, Mr. Hunt resigned as postmaster, and on his recommendation, Mr. Lord was appointed his successor by President Grant, April 21, 1869. He held this position through the administrations of Presidents Grant, Hayes, Garfield and Arthur, nearly 19 years, when he was succeeded by Wm. W. Fish, in February, 1888. He also during most of the time that he was postmaster, carried on an extensive book and stationery business. In 1873, he purchased the Twitchell property on the south side of Main street, and soon after built the fine Masonic Block, which was destroyed by fire in December, 1890, and other blocks of stores and tenements. Few citizens of the town have been so prominently identified with the social, religious and business interests of Athol during the

last quarter of a century as Mr. Lord. He is one of those who believe that every man should have a family home, a religious home, and a business home, and he has been eminently successful in building up all of these, not only for himself, but in assisting others to have the same. Since retiring from the post office and mercantile business, Mr. Lord has been engaged in real estate operations of great magnitude. Among his enterprises has been the development of the Lake Park property, which has opened up to the town from the pine forests of six or seven years, a most desirable location, from which the chimneys of more than thirty homes look out upon the village. He has also developed other tracts known as South Park, Intervale and Pleasant Valley, nearly two hundred acres in all. But the enterprise that has required the most courage and backbone, was the building of the new Pequig House and the Academy of Music, the former of which erected at a cost of sixty-five thousand dollars, is the finest hotel building in Western Massachusetts, while the Academy of Music, built in 1892, at a cost of nearly forty thousand dollars, is the pride of the town. Mr. Lord started the first street sprinkler, was instrumental in organizing the Board of Trade, and was actively interested in the introduction of the gas and water systems. He has also assisted generously in promoting other local business enterprises, among which is the Athol Silk Co. In 1871, with the late E. F. Jones, he started the Athol Transcript. In religious belief he is a Unitarian, and was for several years superintendent of the Sunday school of the old First Church. He was instrumental in



LUCIEN LORD.





the organization of the Second Unitarian Church, and has been the superintendent of its Sunday school ever since it was organized. In 1891, he represented the First Worcester District in the Legislature, and is now a trustee of the Athol Savings Bank, a member of the School Committee, Trustee of the Public Library, and Secretary of the Board of Trade. He married Delia M. Pierce of Royalston.

GARDINER LORD, youngest child, save one, of Captain Thomas Lord, was born in Athol, April 7, 1788, on the place now owned and occupied by Ira Wright, on the road leading from the brickyard of R. A. Bailey & Co., to North Orange. Being of a large family, and his father's means limited, he was obliged at an early age to earn his own living. He worked as a farm hand and hostler until 1813, when on March 4, he married Nancy Young, daughter of Samuel Young of Chestnut Hill, and went to her home to live. His wife died in less than a year, leaving a daughter who died in early womanhood. On March 2, 1815, he married Sally Smith, a native of Truro, Mass., whose father had lately moved to Phillipston, then Gerry; by her he had six children: Abigail, born Nov. 6, 1816, Nathaniel Y., born Nov. 5, 1820, Sarah S., born July 30, 1822, Gardiner, Jr., born Feb. 26, 1824, Franklin G., born Oct. 4, 1827, and Charles L., born Dec. 26, 1832.

He continued on the farm until his death, Nov. 24, 1869. Of his children, Abigail, the oldest, married John Wood of Royalston, Dec. 5, 1834; they had four children, three of whom are now living, Henry S. Wood and

Mrs. B. H. Brown of Royalston, and Geo. H. Wood of Tangerine, Florida. Nathaniel Y. married Sarah Miller of Phillipston, Feb. 11, 1847; she died Sept. 16, 1854, and he married Elvira R. Goodnow of Whitingham, Vt. He had no children. In early life he assumed the care of his father's place, which he occupied to the time of his death, April 28, 1876. He was one of the cemetery committee, who had charge of the laying out of Silver Lake cemetery, and was one of the first to be buried there. Sarah S. Lord was never married, and resides in Athol with Mrs. C. L. Lord.

GARDINER LORD, JR., in early life learned the shoemakers trade, and was for several years identified with the firm of F. G. & C. L. Lord & Co., boot manufacturers. He was Deputy Sheriff for thirty years, and was one of the Selectmen of Athol in 1864, 1889 and 1890, and has also served as Overseer of the Poor for several years. He married Mary Barker, of Oswego, N. Y., March 18, 1868. He has one son, William G., born Sept. 7, 1871.

FRANKLIN G. LORD, worked on his father's farm until seventeen years of age, attending school about eight or nine weeks during the winter, and then went to work bot-toming boots. When twenty-one years of age he went to Natick, and worked at cutting shoes for George Walcott, the goods made being brogans for the Southern trade; Mr. Lord for two years had charge of the shop. He returned to Athol and engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes, at first with the late C. C. Bassett, then with Geo. W. Babbitt, and later formed a partnership with his brothers, Gardiner and Charles L., for the manufacture



**NATHANIEL Y. LORD.**



**GARDINER LORD, JR.**



**GARDINER LORD.**



**FRANKIN G. LORD.**



**CHARLES L. LORD.**

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of boots, which continued from 1863 to 1872. When this firm was dissolved, he went into mercantile business with S. M. Osgood for two years, and afterwards was travelling salesman for O. Kendall & Co. for fifteen years. He has been in the retail boot and shoe business since the fall of 1887. He was one of the engineers of the fire department for thirteen years, and also served on the School Committee. On July 4, 1851, he was married to Eliza A. Flint of Athol; they have two sons, Geo. F. Lord and Fred W. Lord, both of whom have been engaged in business in Athol.

CHARLES L. LORD also learned the shoemakers trade, and was in company with his brothers, as already stated, in the manufacture of boots. For a few years he carried on the crockery and furniture business on Exchange street, which he sold out on account of failing health. His first wife was Lottie A. Wight, by whom he had two children, one who died in infancy, and Milton Kirke, who died Dec. 21, 1889, aged twenty-two years. On April 18, 1876, he married for his second wife Miss Eldora Burnett of Holden, Mass., who survives him. Mr. Lord died May 14, 1892.

### THE OLIVERS.

Among the early settlers of Athol, were four brothers John, Robert, William and James Oliver, who settled in town either in the fall of 1735 or the spring of 1736. They were Scotch-Irish, and came to America directly from the north of Ireland. They are said to have been healthy, stout, robust men, who had the strength and will to build for themselves homes among the forests of old

Pequoig. They were prominent in town and church affairs, William Oliver having been one of the first Selectmen and Assessors of the town, and also the second town Treasurer. Robert, William and James, subsequently removed to other states, John alone remaining in Athol, and it is from him that the present Olivers of Athol and vicinity are descended.

JOHN OLIVER settled in that part of the town known as Lyon's Hill, and built his first house of logs on, what is now, the east side of the road, a short distance north of the house occupied by Charles H. Moulton. For many years he lived here and cleared up and cultivated the land around, and it was in this log house that most of his children were born. Later he built a gambrel roofed house a few rods above the house known as the Drury house, near the Petersham road. John Oliver was a young man under twenty years of age when he came through the wilderness from Hatfield, and settled here on these hills; every account of him goes to show that he was one of nature's noblemen; a young man of daring energy, he developed into a man of noble proportions, both physically and mentally. He is described as having been a very large man, six and one half feet tall, straight and well built, a powerful man. He was familiarly known as "Old Dap." His name appears frequently on the early records as a town officer, and as prominently identified with church affairs, and he was also a Captain in the Revolutionary War. He was married about 1746, and had a family of eleven children. He lived to a very old age, and died Dec. 23, 1811, at the age of ninety-three years,

and was buried in the cemetery known as the Street Hill burying ground. He died during the great snow storm of 1811, and his remains lay for eight days in the house, before they could be taken to the grave yard.

AARON OLIVER, the oldest child of John Oliver, was born Sept. 15, 1748, in the old log house built by his father. Although his early life was full of cares and responsibilities that usually fall to the lot of the oldest child of a large family, yet his leisure was improved in such a manner that he obtained a good education for those days. He was a man of prominence in town affairs, and served the town as one of its Selectmen; was often chosen as moderator to preside at town meeting, and served on important committees. He also had strong religious convictions, and was one of the first to espouse the Baptist doctrines in this town. Aaron Oliver, and his near neighbor, Isaac Briggs, were the prime movers in founding the present Baptist church in town, and were the two first deacons of the church, being elected to that position Dec. 1, 1810. He married Lucy Smith, Jan. 19, 1774, and had seven children. He built a large square story and a half house, about half a mile northeast from the old homestead on the old turnpike road to Phillipston. This was one of the first carriage roads of the town, and was discontinued over eighty years ago. He lived here about thirty years, and finally sold the farm to his son James. He died Jan. 3, 1826, at the home of his son George, on the farm formerly owned by Thomas Brooks.

JAMES OLIVER, was the second son of Aaron Oliver, and was born April 19, 1778. Tradition says he was a prom-

ising boy, full of daring and energy. He learned surveying, and became the surveyor for this and adjoining towns; his plans of farms and lands surveyed are now in existence, and are skillfully and accurately made. He also did a large amount of business in making out deeds, contracts and all kinds of legal documents. He married Hannah Kendall, Sept. 30, 1801. Miss Kendall was the daughter of Jonathan Kendall, one of the early settlers of Chestnut Hill; they had seven children. In 1804 he built the large two story house, now standing on the old place near the Petersham road, and known as the "Drury place." He was one of the Selectmen of the town from 1807 to the time of his death in 1829, with the exception of six years, and was the Deputy Sheriff for this section for a period of twenty-one years. He was also elected Captain of the militia company, and became known as Captain Oliver. As captain, surveyor, selectman, farmer and deputy sheriff, he was an exceedingly busy man; and, in addition to all these, he was also sent to the General Court at Boston as Representative, in 1814 and 1815. He acted as auctioneer for the whole town for more than twenty years, and during this time settled a large number of estates. The last few years of Capt. Oliver's life were passed in a house on "Athol Street" on the site of the residence of the late Ebenezer Brock. He died there, of erysipelas, May 7, 1829, at the age of 51 years.

JAMES OLIVER, (2,) the oldest son of Capt. James Oliver, was born July 31, 1802. His early life was spent upon the farm. Soon after he was of age he learned the blacksmith trade, and in the Fall of 1828,







DR. JAMES OLIVER.

moved to Orange, and bought the old Putnam shop on the north side of the river, where he did blacksmithing with water power. He lived there four years, when on account of his health he was obliged to sell, and moved to South Athol, then called Podunk, and opened a store. He remained in South Athol about four years, and then moved to Athol street and engaged in blacksmithing and house building. In September, 1843, he moved to the Upper Village and continued the blacksmith business, and in 1845, built a house upon the Common, which was his home for nearly thirty-five years. About 1850, he commenced the manufacture of steel garden rakes, potato diggers, etc., which he continued with varying success for ten or fifteen years, and in 1860, engaged in getting out house finish, which business he followed for twelve years or more. He married Minerva Fay, Sept. 18, 1827. She died Aug. 16, 1879, and Mr. Oliver April 20, 1887. They had seven children, two of whom died in infancy.

DR. JAMES OLIVER, (3,) the only son of James Oliver, (2,) was born June 28, 1836, on Athol Street. His school days commenced at the early age of three years, when he went to school with an older sister. When about seventeen years of age he taught his first school in the New Sherborn district, where his wages were fourteen dollars per month, and he paid one dollar per week for his board. He taught other schools at North Orange and Phillipston, and during the intervals between his teaching attended the High school. He was the teacher of the Athol Centre Grammar school for several terms, and was one of the first assistant teachers of the High school.

In 1860, he first commenced the study of medicine as a student, with the late Dr. J. P. Lynde, and attended medical lectures at Boston for several terms, graduating July 16, 1862. During the last year of his studies the Civil war was raging, and several times he almost decided to leave his studies and enter the army; fearing the war might close before his graduation. As soon as he graduated from the Medical College, he was commissioned assistant surgeon in the 21st Mass. Regiment, and joined his regiment at Falmouth, Va. At the second Bull Run battle, which was his first engagement, Dr. Oliver was left in charge of the sick and wounded, and was taken prisoner, but soon managed to escape. He rejoined his regiment at Alexandria, and participated in the battles at South Mountain and Antietam. He was promoted as surgeon of the 21st Regt. May 26, 1864, and passed through the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Bethesda Church and Coal Harbor. His term of service having expired, he was mustered out Aug. 30, 1864, and in September of the same year was commissioned assistant surgeon of the 61st Mass. Regt., Oct. 18, surgeon of the same, and June 2d, 1865, brigade surgeon. He participated in the great battles of April 1865, which resulted in the fall of Richmond, and was mustered out with his regiment July 30, 1865.

After the war Dr. Oliver was for a number of years engaged in cotton raising in South Carolina, but returned to Athol upwards of twenty years ago, and has continued to practice his profession to the present time. He has been actively interested in town affairs and politics, suc-

ceeded the late Dr. J. P. Lynde as the Medical Examiner of this district, is prominent in Grand Army circles, and has been a member of the school committee for several years, being a member of the present board. He married Miss Kate Johnson, daughter of the late Geo. T. Johnson, Jan. 25, 1876. They have two children, Annie J. and James.

The other children of James Oliver, (2,) are, Harriett K., who married S. B. Pitts, Jane T., married Foster J. Benjamin, Rosella A., married Ransom Ward, and Minerva, married Delevan Richardson.

GEORGE OLIVER, a son of Aaron Oliver, was born in Athol in 1776. He lived for many years on the farm known as the Brooks farm on the North Orange road. He removed to Vermont, where he lived a few years, and then came back to Massachusetts and resided in Royalston, until his death in 1841. He was married three times. His first wife was Rhoda Young, by whom he had four children, Hepzibah, Samuel, George and Nathaniel. His second wife was Deborah White, and by her he had four children, Catherine, Cynthia, Moses and Caleb. Cynthia Goddard, the third wife, bore him five children, Charles, James, Aaron, Mary and Lucy. A sketch of James Oliver is given in the Grand Army chapter. Chas. Oliver was born April 5, 1831, and married Ellen Davis, a sister of A. S. Davis, April 5, 1854. He resides in Fitchburg. Moses is a civil engineer, and lives in Lawrence, where he has been prominent in building the mills of the city.

Franklin Oliver, a son of James (1,) was born March

24, 1810, and lived and died in the vicinity of his native place. He had a saw mill near South Athol, and manufactured lumber, in which he was an extensive dealer. He married Emily, a daughter of Bartholomew Woodward, and had eleven children: Ozi, Sylvenus E., Otis, Franklin, Jr., Sally E., Franklin 2d, Solon J., Orville, Orrin, Edd O. and Lilia E.

### THE KENDALLS.

Among the names in the "List of men admitted by the Great and General Court's Committee, to draw House Lotts in the Township of Pequig, on Millers River, on the 26 of June, 1734, at Concord, as settlers of said Pequig," we find the name of Samuel Kendall. This Samuel Kendall was from Woburn, where he was born, Oct. 29, 1682, a son of Thomas and Ruth Kendall. He was a man of great activity and enterprise, well known as Lieutenant Kendall, having received a Lieutenant's commission from Governor Belcher, Oct. 5, 1732. He was an extensive land-owner in his native town, and was also an original proprietor of Northtown, or Townsend. He was one of the principal men among the early settlers of Pequig, and here he and several of his sons suffered from flood and from depredations of the Indians in the French war between the years 1744 and 1760. He was a carpenter by trade, and did good service in the settlement of the town. He died at Woburn, Dec. 13, 1764.

It was either this Mr. Samuel Kendall, or his son Samuel, that the proprietors made an agreement with for building a mill, for at a meeting of the proprietors, held by adjournment on the 18th day of October, 1738, a grant

of sixty acres of land was made "to Mr. Samuel Kendall for building a corn mill and keeping it in Repair for ye space of ten years, so as to Grind for ye Above said Proprietors." Jesse Kendall, a son of Samuel, was a prominent man in the early days of Athol, especially in building mills and developing the water power, and was one of the deacons of the old first church, being chosen to that position Nov. 10, 1774. Mrs. Anstis Kendall Miles, a granddaughter, in the Kendall genealogy which she arranged in rhyme, has the following in regard to him :

"Now Jesse, eleventh of Samuel, I'll show,  
Whose wife was Elizabeth Evans, I know,  
He moved to "Pequage" and lived near the river,  
Now Athol, for the Kendalls are millers forever.

He dug a canal, took the water away,  
Which moves much mechanical business to-day,  
And built the first mill to grind corn and wheat,  
Rye, barley and oats, for the people to eat.

He owned a good farm, which he cleared up with care,  
And contended for crops with the flood and the bear,  
And the men of the forest, being loth to depart,  
Shot their arrows of vengeance, but ne'er reached his heart.

He was honest in toil, was constant to meeting,  
And the brethren united and made him a Deacon,  
Yet at this distant day, it seems rather odd,  
That they carried their guns to the house of their God.

The scripture injunction they fully obeyed,  
And some watched without while the minister prayed.  
'Twas the war with the French that kindled their ire,  
To murder and steal, and burn up with fire.

How little we think what our fathers went through,  
As we till the green fields that they strove to subdue,  
E'en my father, when young, caught a cub by the way,  
When going to meeting one fine Sabbath day.

This Jesse a patriarch was in his day,  
Had twelve sons and daughters, all handsome and gay."

Joel Kendall of this family, owned a saw and grist mill, where the factory of the Millers River Manufacturing Co. is now located, and also owned a large tract of land between the villages. He was succeeded in business by his sons, Lyman Kendall and Joel Kendall, Jr., the former's

residence being the house now occupied by M. L. Lee, while the latter lived where the S. E. Fay house now is, and had a mill where the Goddard and Manning piano shop is now located.

Another family bearing the name of Kendall, which has been prominently identified with the town all through its history down to the present day and generation settled on Chestnut Hill. Six Kendall brothers came from Scotland and settled in Massachusetts. Jonathan Kendall, one of the six, came to Athol and settled on Chestnut Hill. He built a log house and cleared up about half an acre of land, where the old Kendall house now stands. In 1765, he married Anna Oliver. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and participated in the capture of Ticonderoga; his grandson, John Kendall, now has the old powder horn that he carried in the war. His wife, Anna, was a woman of uncommon strength and endurance, and is said to have been a great marksman. She did much of the farm work while her husband was in the war, and is said to have dug forty bushels of potatoes in a day. He kept a store, and people came from Warwick to get codfish, salt, rum and molasses, which they carried to their homes through the wilderness on foot. The old store stood until seven or eight years ago on the farm. Jonathan Kendall also owned the up-town common, which he sold to Samuel Sweetzer. He had six children, five girls and one boy. He died in 1817, and his wife Anna, died in 1824.

JOHN KENDALL, the only son of Jonathan Kendall, married Susan Smith in 1796. He was prominent in mili-







**JOAB KENDALL.**



**OZI KENDALL.**



**JOHN KENDALL.**



**GOODSELL GODDARD.**

tary affairs of those days, and was a captain in the militia. He had ten children, six boys and four girls: Jonathan, Stephen, Wyman, Annie, Joab, Lydia, Ozi, John, Maria and Susan. Stephen and Susan died young. Annie married Joshua Young, and died in a few years, Lydia married Gardner Davis, and was the mother of Azor S. Davis, and Maria married Russell Smith, who was one of Athol's prominent manufacturers. Jonathan settled in Orange, and was the father of Aral Kendall. Wyman went South, and was engaged in peddling saddles and other articles. He returned to Athol and worked at shoe making, and subsequently went to Vermont, where he remained for some time.

JOAB KENDALL was born Dec. 22, 1805. He lived at home on the farm, and his education was received in the district school. When twenty-one years of age he went to Worcester, and lived for a year, after which he returned to Athol and purchased a farm on Chestnut Hill, near the old homestead. He was married Sept. 26, 1830, to Louisa Young of Orwell, Vt. He carried on his farm for nearly forty-five years, until October, 1871, when he removed to the Village and retired from active business. He was a prominent and active member of the Congregational church, and was one of its deacons for fifteen years. He had one son, Ira Y. Kendall. He died Dec. 14, 1884.

OZI KENDALL was born Sept. 13, 1810. He received the common school education afforded in those times, and when a young man of seventeen, entered a Worcester leather store, and later went to Templeton, where he

learned the shoemakers trade of Jonathan Bowker. He returned to Athol, and in 1834, began business for himself in a small way, in the shop on Main street, which formerly adjoined the house in which he lived and where he died. His business grew slowly, but steadily, until it outgrew the Main Street shop, and the large brick factory on Exchange Street was erected in 1874. In 1855, he admitted his son George N., into partnership with him, which was continued until 1875, the firm name being O. Kendall & Son. In 1870, his nephew, Ira Y. Kendall and Geo. S. Pond, were admitted to the firm, and the name was changed to O. Kendall & Co., which it remained until the business was given up in 1887. In 1884, which completed half a century of his business, he sold out his interest to Ira Y. Kendall and Geo. S. Pond. He married Miss Fanny A. Ainsworth, a sister of the wife of Jonathan Bowker, his early employer in Templeton. They had two children, George N. and Helen F., who married Rev. Alonzo Sanderson, a Methodist minister, now of Worcester. Mr. Kendall was a trustee of the Athol Savings Bank for many years, and in 1871, represented this district in the Legislature. He was one of nature's noblemen, quiet and retiring, with a tender heart and generous impulses, while the most solid virtues were ingrained in his character, and when he passed away on Nov. 16, 1884, the whole community mourned the loss of a good man.

JOHN KENDALL was born Oct. 26, 1812, and has always lived on the old homestead settled by his grandfather Jonathan. In addition to carrying on his farm he en-





IRA Y. KENDALL.

gaged quite extensively for many years in the lumbering business. He has served his fellow citizens in positions of responsibility, having been for six years a member of the board of Selectmen, two of the years being the first years of the late war, and was for forty years one of the sextons. For many years he was a prominent member of the old First Unitarian church, was a teacher in its Sunday school, and one of the committee of arrangements for the Centennial celebration of the church in 1850. He is now a member of the Second Unitarian church. The divining rod works well in his hands, and his reputation in this direction has been such that his services have been in demand in all of the towns of this vicinity, and he has also been called to a distance. He has discovered more than one hundred and fifty springs in Athol alone. He married Cynthia Garfield, in November, 1836. She died Mar. 13, 1877, and he was married to Almira Goodell, Feb. 22, 1878. He had two children by his first wife, Henry and Susan who married Simeon B. Newton.

IRA Y KENDALL, son of Joab, was born Dec. 25, 1831. He attended the common schools of the town, and in the fall of 1853, went to Brandon Seminary, in Brandon, Vt., where he became acquainted with Miss Ettie Thomas of that town, whom he married Sept. 6, 1855. He learned the shoemakers trade and the bottoming of boots, and settled down at home on the farm, where he was engaged in farming and lumbering, until he moved to the Village, April 1, 1870. He went into company with his uncle, Ozi Kendall, in the manufacture of boots, the firm name being O. Kendall & Co. In 1884, with Mr. Geo. S.

Pond, he bought out the business, and continued it under the old firm name, until the spring of 1887. when they retired from business. Since then he has been engaged in the lumber business most of the time. Mr. Kendall has always taken an active interest in town and public affairs, represented this district in the Legislature of 1881, served the town as Selectman, Overseer of the Poor and Road Commissioner in 1888 and 1889, and was for a number of years one of the Republican town committee. During the war of the Rebellion, he was one of the committee for raising money for the volunteers. He is also prominently identified with the Congregational church, was Superintendent of its Sunday School for three years, and was chosen Deacon in 1879, which position he holds at the present time. He had one son, Warren, a young man of much promise, who died in 1890, at the age of eighteen, while a student at Cushing Academy.

#### THE MORTONS.

Among the first five settlers of Athol were two brothers, Richard Morton and Samuel Morton, while a third brother, Noah, came a few years after. They came from Hatfield, and were the sons of Abraham Morton, who was born in May, 1676, and married Sarah Kellogg, May 8, 1701. The first ancestor of the family in America was George Morton, one of the Pilgrims, who was their financial agent in England, and the one who chartered the "Mayflower," which brought over the first colony that landed at Plymouth in 1620, coming himself in 1623. Richard Morton married Mary Waite, a granddaughter of Sergeant Benjamin Waite, the "Hero of the Connecticut



Valley," Feb. 25, 1731. He came to Athol in September, 1735, and built the first dwelling in town, which was a log hut near the house formerly occupied by Mr. Lynde Smith. He was actively engaged in the organization of the first church of Athol, and was one of the first to affix his signature to the solemn covenant. He had seven children: Martin, Jeremiah, Abraham, Margery, Benjamin, Mary and Submit.

(1) Martin Morton, the oldest, was born in Hatfield, Feb. 7, 1732. He had fifteen children, born in Athol between 1754 and 1782. This family probably removed from town.

(2) Jeremiah Morton, the second son, was born in Hatfield, Nov. 20, 1733, and married Alice Ford, Nov. 30, 1766. They had seven children, Daniel, the oldest son, married Electa Fairbanks, and had five children, all of whom died within six months of each other, with the exception of Electa, who married John W. Kelton, and died in 1892, at the age of ninety-five years. She was the mother of John and Cornelius W. Kelton.

Lieutenant Joel Morton, the second son of Jeremiah Morton, was born Dec. 17, 1770. He married Annie Kendall of Athol, and was a man of wealth and influence in the town, holding the position of town treasurer for many years. He had several daughters, of whom, Alice married Bela Putnam, and Fanny married Lyndes Smith.

Jeremiah Morton, the youngest son of Jeremiah and Alice (Ford) Morton, was born Nov. 30, 1781, and married Olive Morse, March 30, 1809. He was engaged in the saddlery and hatter business, and built the house now

occupied by Dr. James Oliver, which was his home until his death Feb. 1, 1854.

JOHN DWIGHT MORTON, his son, was born Oct. 3, 1830. His education was obtained in the public schools of Athol, and he served his first apprenticeship in business when fifteen years old in a store in Royalston kept by Austin & Work. He remained there three years, after which he returned home and spent another year in school, when he started business on his own account, in what is now the town of Putnam, Conn.; where he remained three or four years, and went to Boston in 1853. He first obtained a situation in the store of Stimson & Valentine, wholesale dealers in paints, oils and varnishes. In 1859 he entered the employ of the house of Banker & Carpenter, who were engaged in the same business, and became a partner in 1864. In 1868, the firm name was changed to Carpenter, Woodward & Morton, and remained the same until Jan. 1, 1893, when the business was incorporated, under the name of the Carpenter-Morton Company, of which Mr. Morton is the treasurer and general manager. This company does the largest business of any in New England in its special line of goods, and is one of the largest in the United States. He has had much to do in moulding and influencing the business and social organizations of Boston. He was one of the founders of the "Paint and Oil Club of New England," serving as its President in 1886 and 1887, was also one of the organizers of the "National Paint, Oil and Varnish Association," which was organized at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1888, and served as its President in 1893 and 1894. He first suggested the for-



JOHN D. MORTON.



mation of the present "Boston Associated Board of Trade," and served as its first vice president. Among the various clubs and associations of which he is a member are: The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, Bostonian Society, Boston Art Club, Boston Commandery of Knights Templars, Boston Chamber of Commerce, Roxbury Club, Boston Young Men's Christian Union, American Unitarian Association, and many others. He was in 1889 and 1890 President of the Worcester Northwest Agricultural and Mechanical Society. He married Marcia E. Wesson, daughter of William C. Wesson of Hardwick, Oct. 7, 1862. They have three children, two daughters and a son. Arabel, the oldest daughter, married in 1887, Joseph H. Goodspeed, treasurer of the West End Railroad Co., and Clara married George F. Gray of Boston, who is associated with the Shephard & Morse Lumber Co. George C. is associated with his father, and is a director of the Carpenter-Morton Co.

(3) Abraham, the third son of Richard Morton, born Dec. 25, 1735, was the first white child born in Athol. His supposed tragic death is related in the chapter on Ancient Pequoig.

(4) Margery, born Oct. 28, 1737, was the first white female born in Athol. She lived a maid. The following poem was written of her by Mrs. Clare H. Burleigh for "Picturesque Worcester:"

"No poet, or painter, no hero of fame  
We sing, but of Athol's first baby," whose claim  
The records preserve undisputed. Her name  
Was Margery Morton.

We know not the tint of her hair or her eyes,  
If sombre, or gleaming with light from the skies;  
If sober, or smiling, if foolish or wise,  
This Margery Morton.

But "Athol" her baby lips learned to repeat,  
The dust of the highway, the first village street  
Was trodden oft-times, by the wee toddling feet  
Of Margery Morton.

No garment of her's bright with cochineal hues,  
No apron of jean, dyed with indigo blues,  
Have we, but one of the queer little shoes  
Of Margery Morton.

She looked from her home, on the valleys below,  
On hills clad with verdure, or covered with snow;  
The famous old "fort tree" began first to grow  
With Margery Morton.

For her, all the wild flow'rs made haste to unfold  
Their petals of crimson, of purple and gold;  
As lovely as now, were the blossoms of old,  
For Margery Morton.

Perchance a fierce savage, with dark painted face  
Frowned on her young beauty, her innocent grace,  
And danger may always have haunted the place  
For Margery Morton.

We follow her not through life's devious way,  
A fair winsome maiden, or sad spinster gray;  
We sing but of Athol's first daughter to-day,  
Our Margery Morton.

(5) Benjamin, son of Richard Morton, was born Oct. 20, 1739, and married Mary Dexter, Sept. 28, 1760. They resided in Orange, and had nine children.

(6) Mary married Stephen Lord of Athol.

(7) Submit married Caleb Smith of Athol.

Samuel Morton, who came to Athol with his brother Richard in 1735, was born at Hatfield, Sept. 8, 1708, and married Lydia Smith, daughter of Nathaniel Smith of Hatfield, June 23, 1731. They had nine children: Lydia married Robert Bradish, Abigail married James Stratton, Jerusha married Jonas Bradish, Lois married Samuel Humphrey, a brother of Rev. James Humphrey, and Martha married Daniel Lamson, all of Athol.

JULIUS STERLING MORTON, who is descended from Samuel Morton, is the most distinguished descendant of the old Athol families. He was born at Adams, Jefferson

County, New York, April 22, 1832, a son of Julius Dewey Morton and Emeline (Sterling) Morton. When he was but two years old his parents removed to Monroe, Michigan. Until he was fifteen years old he attended a private school in Monroe, and was then placed in the Wesleyan Seminary at Albion, Mich. In 1850, he entered the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, and after nearly four years at this institution, he went to Union College, and in 1854 received his degree of A. M., from Dr. Eliphalet Nott, the famous president of that college. During the last two years of his college life he was a frequent contributor to the editorial columns of the Detroit Free Press. Soon after graduating he married, and in the fall of 1854, started for the newly organized territory of Nebraska, where he pre-empted a claim of one hundred and sixty acres, and in true pioneer style built a log cabin, which was the home of himself and wife for a year. The cabin then gave place to a cottage, and that spot has ever since been Mr. Morton's home. His early purpose had been to become a lawyer, and he practiced that profession until 1860, when his office and library were burned, when he abandoned law for business, and occupations more congenial to him. In April, 1855, he established the Nebraska City News, which he edited for many years, and which is still in existence, being the oldest paper in the state. He took a lively interest in public affairs, and became a member of the territorial legislature, and was appointed by President Buchanan, Secretary of the Territory, in 1858, which position he held until 1861, and during a portion of this period he was the acting governor.

Mr. Morton has been repeatedly the candidate of his party for governor, and a seat in the United States Senate, but during his entire political career, his state has been steadfastly Republican, and it was not until 1893 that he came into power as a member of President Cleveland's Cabinet, when he was selected as Secretary of Agriculture. It was exceedingly appropriate that this important position should be conferred upon one whose devotion to agriculture and forestry had become of national renown, as being the originator of Arbor Day, and through whose influence the treeless lands of the West, are being transformed into gardens and orchards, and dotted with vigorous forest growth. As a farmer and stock raiser, he has labored untiringly to promote the agricultural interests of his state. His entire course of public life has been characterized by an uncommon independence of merely popular and superficial movements. His wife died twenty years after their removal to Nebraska. He has four sons, who have grown to manhood and become heads of families.

Abner Morton, son of Samuel, was born Jan. 17, 1736. He married Sophia Goddard, May 14, 1764. They belonged to the church in Athol, he joining in 1765, and she in 1774. The records give the names of four children as born to them.

Dr. Joshua Morton, another son of Samuel, was born in Athol, Oct. 20, 1744. He married three times, his first wife being Azubah, daughter of Capt. Nathaniel Graves, the second Rebecca Rich, and the third Azubah Williams. Seven children are recorded as having been born to him. A brief sketch of him is given in the Medical chapter.



Noah Morton, who came to Athol a few years after his brothers, Richard and Samuel, was born in Hatfield, Dec. 5, 1718, and died in Athol, March 19, 1798. He married Rhoda Waite, and they had three children.

### THE GODDARDS.

Several of the Goddard families of Athol are descendants of one Edward Goddard of Norfolk County, England. His seventh son, William, was a wholesale merchant in London, and came to New England in 1665 to look after property that he had in this country. He liked so well that he sent for his family and settled in Watertown, Mass. His son, Benjamin, born in 1668, married Martha Palfrey, and lived in Charlestown. They had a son, Benjamin, born in 1705, who married Mary Kidder, and resided in Grafton, Mass. Their son James, born in 1740, came to Athol sometime between 1760 and 1765, with his second cousin, Josiah Goddard, and settled on Chestnut Hill, Josiah on the last farm in Athol, since known as the Flint farm, and Lieut. James Goddard on the next farm south on the east side of the road.

JOSIAH GODDARD, or "Squire Goddard," as he was called, was for more than a quarter of a century, probably, the most prominent man in public affairs in town. In the opening days of the Revolution, he was one of the committee of Inspection and Correspondence, and was from 1778 to 1800, one of the selectmen. He was moderator of town meetings for many years, was on many important committees, and was Representative to the Great and General Court for six years.

JAMES GODDARD married Miss Betty Goddard of Shrewsbury, a sister of Josiah Goddard, in 1767. They had five children.

ELIJAH GODDARD, the second child of James Goddard, was born in 1771. He married Miss Mehitable Goodell in 1794, and had twelve children, most of whom died young. He was a staunch supporter of the old First Church, and was one of its deacons from 1807, until the separation of the Evangelical Church in 1830, when he went with the new church, and was one of its deacons until his death, in 1854. He was the Superintendent of the first Sunday School in town, until the division of the church, and was for several years one of the selectmen.

GOODELL GODDARD, the second son of Elijah, was born May 1, 1797. He married Miss Hannah Paine of Greenwich. He rebuilt the house of his grandfather, Lieut. James Goddard, where he lived until after the death of his mother in 1836, when he returned to his early home to care for his father. He remained on this farm until about 1858, when he removed to the village and occupied a house that he had built on the corner of Park and Central Streets, where he lived during the remainder of his life. He never cared for office of any kind, but loved a quiet life. He dealt largely in real estate, and had an interest at different times in three or four stores, the last one being where Dr. H. M. Humphrey's drug store now is. He was a prominent member of the Congregational church, of which he was elected Deacon, May 1, 1863. He was a member of the church for forty-six years, and a deacon fourteen years. Quiet and unobtrusive in manner, yet firm to the truth at all times, he was respected and beloved in the community. He died July 12, 1877, being the last survivor of his family.

## THE SWEETSER FAMILY.

During the first half of the present century the Sweetser family was one of the most prominent families of Athol, but for the last thirty or forty years there has been no descendant in town bearing the family name. Samuel Sweetser, son of Phillip and Sarah (Richardson) Sweetser, was born in Leominster, Mass., Oct. 16, 1764. Before his marriage he kept a store in Warwick for a year or two, and then moved to Athol, where he bought the tavern at the Centre. In 1792 he married Miss Hannah Moore of Cambridge, and their home was at the tavern until 1806, when Mr. Sweetser sold to Thomas Lord. The family then moved to the substantial house which Mr. Sweetser had just built on the opposite side of the street from the tavern and further to the north. Upon the death of Mr. Sweetser, this house was occupied by his son Samuel until his death in 1847, when it was sold to Mr. Lyman W. Hapgood.

Mr. Sweetser was for many years widely known as a grazier, owning large farms and pastures in Athol, Royalston, Wendell, Petersham, Phillipston, Northfield, Heath, and Warwick. He drove great numbers of cattle to the Brighton market, and there, his ruddy face, and portly figure in its long white coat, and his reputation for business ability made him a person of note. One year it was said that he pastured and sent to Brighton 400 head of cattle. Mr. Sweetser was kind and generous to the poor and unfortunate, especially to women deprived of their natural supporters, and many supplies from his abundant larder found their way to the needy. He died in 1842; but Mrs.

Sweetser, whose home was for five years with her son Samuel, and afterward with her daughter, Mrs. Frederick Jones in Boston, survived him fifteen years. Mrs. Sweetser was a sister of Mrs. Prescott Jones of Athol. She directed her large household skillfully, and without bustle, and lived in the fear of God. The Sweetsters had nine children, all of whom lived to maturity.

(1) Mary, born in 1794, the exemplary and beloved eldest sister died unmarried at the age of twenty-four.

(2) Abby, born in 1795, was an intellectual and deeply religious woman; a teacher in the first Sunday school in Athol. In 1818 she married Mr. Joel Wood of Westminster, by whom she had five children. The three sons died in youth. Her oldest daughter, Mary, is better known in Athol than any other descendant of the Sweetser family. After a wide experience as a teacher, she married in 1860 Rev. Geo. J. Tillotson of Connecticut, in which state she has since resided, and for some years in the town of Wethersfield. Her sister Abby Maria, lived for some years with her uncle, Luke Sweetser, in Amherst, and married in 1855, Rev. Daniel Bliss, who was first a missionary, and is now president of the College at Beirut, Syria.

(3) Samuel Sweetser, Jr., who was born in 1798, and died in 1847, always resided in Athol, and was associated with his father in business. His house, until the death of the father, was that now occupied by Roswell Beard. He was a deacon in the Orthodox Church, and justly respected and beloved. To him were fitly applied the words, "Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving

the Lord." Mr. Sweetser married in 1823, Anna R. Humphrey of Athol, who died in 1835, three of whose children are living. Hannah A., who in 1847 married Wm. B. Washburn, afterward Governor of Massachusetts. Her home is in Greenfield. George D., of the firm of Sweetser, Pembroke & Co., large jobbers in dry goods in New York, and Wm. Penn, with Charles Fox of Stafford Springs, Conn. Mr. Sweetser was married the second time in 1836 to Nancy Maria Harbach of Worcester, who died in 1847, and their son, Charles H., who died in 1871, was a journalist of ability.

(4) Luke Sweetser, born in 1800, went to Amherst, Mass., at the age of eighteen. After serving Mr. Wright Strong as clerk for a short time, he bought Mr. Strong's store, and was a successful merchant for thirty-eight years. He represented Amherst in the Legislature and served the town, the college and the church in various offices with fidelity. In 1833, Mr. Sweetser married Abby G. Munsell in New York, and their son, John Howard, is also of the firm of Sweetser, Pembroke & Co., of New York. Mr. Sweetser died in 1882, and his wife survived him less than a year.

(5) Abel Sweetser, born in 1802, resided in Worcester, where he engaged in mercantile business, and later in Springfield, Mass., where he had a milk and fruit farm and nursery, and where, in 1845, he died from an accident. His first wife was Almira Jennison of Phillipston, whom he married in 1833, by whom he had two children, Horatio, a house decorator in New York city, and Sarah, now Mrs. Fish of Quincy, Ill. In 1841 he was married

the second time in Lowell to Eunice White, whose son Luke resides in Peoria, Ill.

(6) Miranda, born in 1804, was married in 1827 to James Goldsbury of Warwick, and their life together was numbered by almost 65 years, when her death occurred, November 6, 1891. Mr. Goldsbury, who throughout his life has possessed the confidence and esteem of his townspeople, still retains health and a clear mind at the age of 96. Their daughter, Ann Maria, lives with him, while the son James resides in Minneapolis, Minn., engaged in real estate business. A younger son, Sweetser, died in early manhood. Mrs. Goldsbury held strong convictions concerning a Christian living and duty, and when, ten years before her death she was crippled by an accident, maintained a lovely spirit of submission to God's will. She outlived all her brothers and sisters, and looked forward with clear faith to the life beyond our sight.

(7) Maria, born in 1806, married Frederick Jones of Athol in 1831. Mr. Jones continued his father's business, as a tanner, and early commenced the manufacture of boots and shoes, in which he secured a large fortune. In 1836 he removed to Boston, which was ever after his home. The Athol boot and shoe factory was owned by Mr. Jones and Mr. Milton Baker. For half a century, the hospitality of Mr. Jones' city home was enjoyed by the large family circle and many friends, and with it are connected delightful memories. Mrs. Jones' character was singularly well balanced. With a quick perception of character, and of the humorous side of things, and the rare faculty of saying much in few words, she had the

charity that never faileth. Although deeply interested in the church and a wide range of charities, chief of which was the Boston Y. W. C. A., her tastes were preeminently domestic and womanly. She died suddenly of apoplexy, July 16, 1884, and Mr. Jones' death, June 7, 1887, was from the same cause. Two sons died in infancy and a daughter Jane M., at the age of 21. The older daughter, Caroline S., the wife of F. F. Emery, Mr. Jones' partner, died Oct. 1, 1890.

(8) Joseph Artemas, born in 1809, early removed to Amherst, and in 1835 married Catherine, daughter of Samuel Dickinson of that town. Mr. Sweetser became a dry goods merchant in New York City, and their home was first in Brooklyn, then for many years in New York, and after his retirement from business, upon a large estate in Poughkeepsie. He was a man of cultivated tastes and agreeable manners, and much attached to the Madison Square Church and to its pastor, Rev. Wm. Adams. In January, 1874, when the family were boarding in New York, Mr. Sweetser fell upon the ice, striking the head severely. It is supposed that inflammation of the brain ensued, for after a few days of prostration, he walked away from the hotel on the evening of a dense fog, and has never since been heard from. Mr. and Mrs. Sweetser had eight children, of whom three only are living. The oldest, Henry E. was a valued member of the staff of the New York World. Two children died in childhood, and two daughters, Emma and Kate, in young womanhood. Samuel, connected with the Metropolitan S. S. Co., of New York, and Mary, Mrs. Charles H. Sweetser, reside

with their mother in Orange, N. J. The youngest daughter, Mrs. Edward Winslow, resides in New York.

(9) Caroline, born in 1814, was married in 1838 to Ebenezer L. Barnard of Worcester. Of their five children, Lewis died in infancy; Edward L., in the civil war; Caroline, wife of John K. Tiffany of St. Louis, in 1871. The second son, Frederick J., a lawyer, and Eliza, reside in Worcester. Mr. Barnard died in 1850, and in 1870 Mrs. Barnard married Alphonso Wood, author of the standard works on botany, and their home was in West Farms, New York City. After Mr. Wood's death in 1881, Mrs. Wood resided with her son in Worcester, until her death in 1885. She was a woman of strong character, ardent temperament and wide interest; and it is to her care in collecting and recording the history of the family that this record is due. The Sweetser family were characterized by intelligence, industry, and thrift; by strong conviction of duty, sometimes sternly held; and by devotion to the church and to the needy.

#### THE ESTABROOKS.

The Estabrooks are descended from a ministerial family, their ancestor, Rev. Joseph Estabrook, coming from England in 1660 with two brothers. He entered Harvard College, where he was graduated in 1664, and was settled in Concord in 1667, as colleague with Rev. Mr. Buckley, where he continued till his death, which happened in 1711. He had four sons, of these, Joseph Estabrook, the oldest, was born in 1669, and died in Lexington in 1733; he was a deacon in the Lexington church, and filled almost every office in the gift of his townsmen, and also com-



manded a military company. He was a man of more than ordinary education for that day, was often employed as a surveyor, and was engaged to teach the first mans school in the town. His son Joseph, who was born Oct. 10, 1690, and died Aug. 19, 1740, was like his father, captain of the military company, deacon of the church, and filled almost every important office in town.

His son, Benjamin Estabrook, was born Dec. 20, 1729, and married Hannah Hubbard of Concord, May 9, 1757. He was for many years a coroner and a justice of the peace, and was in the campaign to Ticonderoga in 1776. He died March 8, 1803.

His son, Joseph Estabrook, was born in Lexington, March 4, 1758. Although but a boy of seventeen when the memorable Lexington fight of April 19, 1775 occurred, he was one of those who resisted the advance of the English troops on that eventful morning; after having assisted his father in carrying his mother, with a young infant, to a place of safety, he seized his musket and did valiant service in checking the invaders of his country. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1782, and after pursuing his theological studies with Rev. Jonas Clarke, the minister of his native town, he came to Athol, and was ordained as pastor of the Athol church Nov. 21, 1787. The town was most fortunate in securing for its second minister, one whose remarkable abilities and tact were not only able to bring harmony and peace to a community rent by years of discord and bitter feeling, but who also exerted a most salutary influence upon his associates in the min-

istry and the people of this whole region, where his name has always been held in blessed memory.

He was a man of large perceptive powers, and possessed a rare knowledge of human nature, which enabled him to win the confidence and love of all ; courteous and affable, he was every one's friend, and thus was often let into many family secrets and difficulties where his soothing words and friendly counsel and advice acted like oil upon the troubled waters, and he became known far and wide as a peace-maker. The older residents, even at the present day, relate many amusing stories of the tact displayed by him in settling troubles among his parishioners and fellow townsmen. Not only was he a peace-maker in the domestic affairs of his people, but among his ministerial associates at that time, when the theological controversies of the day were being hotly contested, and were distracting many of the churches throughout the state. He would not preach upon these doctrines, nor did he wish others to do so in his pulpit. He wished to keep free of human creeds, and advised his brethren in the ministry to do the same. He used repeatedly to say, "I am neither a Trinitarian nor a Unitarian, but a Bibletarian." To the close of his long ministry, Mr. Estabrook retained fellowship with all the neighboring clergy, and all respected him.

Soon after his settlement in Athol, Mr. Estabrook was married (Sept. 3, 1788,) to Miss Lucy Cushing of Pembroke, Mass. Her parents were wealthy residents of the old colony, and she was their only daughter. Born and educated in affluence, she left her home and came into a land of strangers, at that time almost a wilderness. She



REV. JOSEPH ESTABROOK.



acquainted herself with the duties of her situation, and resolutely and successfully performed them. She possessed a strong mind, which study and reflection had disciplined and stored with useful knowledge. For nearly forty-three years, Rev. Mr. Estabrook continued the faithful minister of a happy people, and finally closed his life on the morning of Sunday, April 18, 1830, lamented by the entire community.

He had seven children, four boys and three girls. Lucy Cushing Estabrook married Col. Abner Young, Marcia married Theodore Jones, Esq., and had a large family, and Fidelia married Rev. Preserved Smith, who became one of the most prominent clergymen of western Massachusetts.

Turner Estabrook went South and died young. Gen. Nathaniel Estabrook attained distinction in the militia, and removed to Leominster, where he died at a good old age.

Dr. Joseph H. Estabrook graduated from Williams College in 1818, was also a graduate of the Harvard Medical school, and studied in Boston with Dr. Ezekiel Cushing, and settled in Camden, Me., about 1825, where he practiced fifty years. He was demonstrator of Anatomy in the Brunswick Medical school, and was for two years President of the Maine Medical Association. He died at Portland, Me., in 1885, at the age of eighty seven years.

Benjamin Estabrook, the youngest son, was born Nov. 23, 1803. He remained at home with his father until the decease of the latter, when he came into possession of the "home place." He always remained a resident of the town, and on the place of his birth, and became the most prominent man of his day, wielding a powerful influence

in the moulding of the town affairs of those days, and by his energy and prudence accumulated property, until at the time of his death he was reported to be one of the wealthiest men of the town. He held almost every office in the gift of his townsmen, having been for many years a member of the board of selectmen, was town clerk, town treasurer, member of the school committee, post-master, represented the town for a number of years in the Legislature, and in 1843 was State Senator, and in all the offices that he held there was never a question as to his faithfulness, honesty and capability. The words of condolence to friends from one intimately acquainted with him, at the time of his death, are exceedingly appropriate ; " Like all men he had his faults, yet he was a noble hearted, philanthropic gentleman of the old school, always honest and honorable, possessing a character among his fellow men, that you can feel a just pride in being one of the same blood. That greatest and grandest of human virtues, —that which Christ himself personified and impressed on mankind—charity, " Uncle Ben " practiced to a large and commendable degree." He died October 19, 1872.

#### FISH FAMILY.

One of the old-time Athol families, which has been identified with the history of the town for a century or more, and has become interlinked by marriage relations with many of the old families, is the Fish family. Simeon Fish, the ancestor of this family in Athol, came from Mendon some time between the close of the Revolution and the opening of the present century, and settled here. He was a sheriff in Mendon, and had been a soldier in

the Revolution, being with Ethan Allen at the taking of Ticonderoga. He was also an extensive landholder. When he came to Athol there were only two houses in that portion of the town that has been known as the lower village; one of these was the old Pequoig House which had been built several years, and which he purchased of Dea. Jesse Kendall. He had seven children: Hannah, Ezra, Samuel, Benjamin, Eunice, Sally and Lucinda.

(1) Hannah, married Joshua Smith, and was the mother of Adin H. Smith.

(2) Ezra Fish was a farmer, and came into possession of the broad acres of his father, that included nearly all the tract now occupied by the busy shops, elegant business blocks and fine residences of the Lower Village. He had four children, one of whom died in infancy. Moses married Ann Young, lived in Athol a number of years, and died in New Jersey. Henry became the owner of his father's farm, and he and his brother Moses were among the first landlords of the old Pequoig House. He married his cousin, Sally Fish. Lucy married Amos L. Cheney.

(3) Benjamin moved from town and resided for a time in Prescott and New Salem. He afterwards removed to Peoria, Ill., where he died.

(4) Eunice married Absalom Ball of Warwick.

(5) Sally married Capt. Francis Twichell, and was the mother of Ginery Twichell.

(6) Lucinda married Reuben Fairbanks, and moved to Champlain.

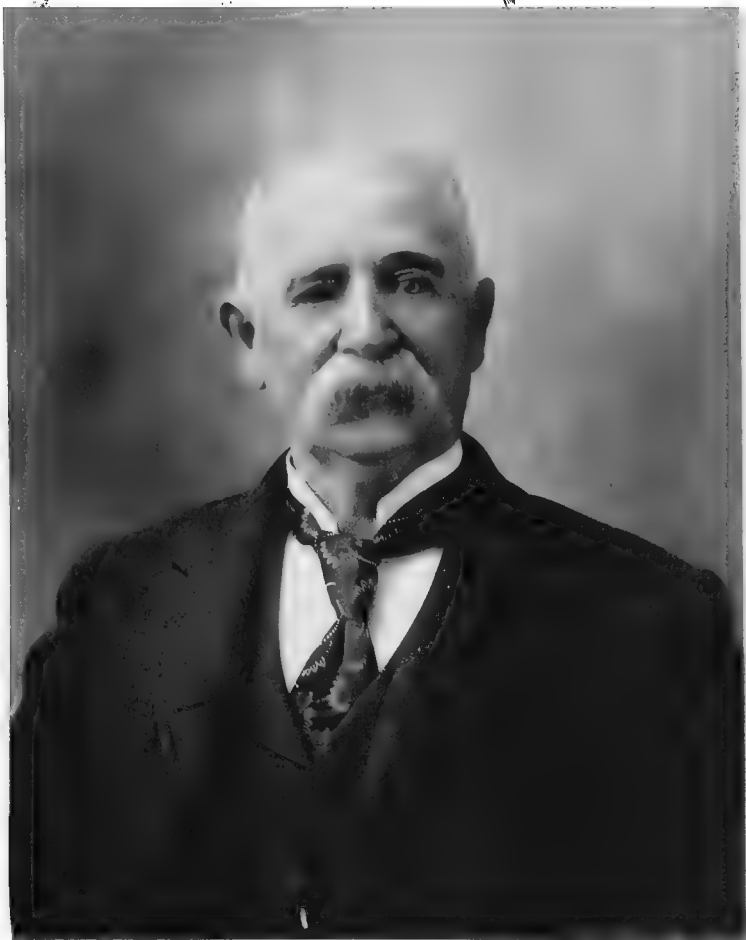
(7) Samuel Fish, son of Simeon, came to Athol from Mendon, but whether at the same time as his father or not, we are unable to determine. When he first came to town he settled on Lyon's hill, towards Petersham, but as he felt that he was at too great a distance from school for his children to attend, he purchased the farm now occupied by Charles H. Moulton, on the Petersham road. He also at one time lived on Chestnut Hill, on the place now owned by Rev. F. B. Knowlton. He had eleven children: Joseph, Jason, Francis, Nancy, Lucinda, Betsey, Sally, Samuel, Jr., Esther, Lucia and Horatio.

(1) JOSEPH, the oldest, went to Putney, Vt., when about twenty-one years old, and afterwards resided in Dummerston in the same state.

(2) JASON was born in Athol, Feb. 14, 1796, and for several years occupied the farm of his father on Lyon's Hill. He left Athol in 1820, and lived in Vermont for about fifty years. He had four sons and one daughter: Frederick A., Prescott M., Henry L., William W. and Abby M.

WILLIAM W. FISH, son of Jason Fish, was born in Dummerston, Vt., May 11, 1832. He remained at home with his father until about seventeen years of age, when he went to Angelica, Alleghany County, New York, and learned the blacksmith trade with his brother. He remained there about two and a half years, and came to Athol in September, 1852, and went to work at his trade for Mr. Asa Foster, at the Upper Village. In the spring of 1853, he went into partnership with Mr. Foster, their place of business being a shop where the Chronicle block





WILLIAM W. FISH.



now stands. In 1855 he bought the business of Mr. Foster, in which he continued for many years, and also engaged in the carriage business, putting up the first buildings on the "Island" for that purpose. He carried on this business until he was burned out in 1871, and then went into the real estate business with the late J. B. Cardany, and about that time built the block now known as the "Chronicle Block." He is one of the few democrats that have represented this district in the Legislature during the last quarter of a century, being a member of the House in 1876. He served the town as selectman four years, has been assessor and road commissioner, and is now one of the cemetery commissioners. President Cleveland appointed him postmaster of the Athol office Jan. 16, 1888, which position he held until Feb. 14, 1891. An active worker in the Masonic organizations, he was for fifteen years prelate of Athol Commandery Knights Templars, of which he has also been Eminent Commander, and High Priest of Union Royal Arch Chapter. In 1855, he married Rosella B. Heywood of Athol, who died in 1867. He was married again in June 1875, to Mrs. Abbie P. Bingham, of Nashua, N. H., by whom he has one daughter, Grace Fish. Since his retirement from the post office, Mr. Fish has not been engaged in active business, except to manage his farm on Chestnut Hill Avenue.

Abby M. Fish married Henry L. Sargent. They lived in Athol many years, and moved to Newfane, Vt., where Mrs. Sargent died in 1892. They had one son, Fred H. Sargent.

(4) Nancy married Henry Lee, and was the mother of Samuel Lee. She died at the age of seventy-three years.

(5) LUCINDA married Eber Goddard, and lived on Chestnut Hill.

(6) BETSEY married Samuel Newhall, and was the mother of Mrs. Kate L. Newton.

(7) SALLY FISH was born in 1808, and died March 3, 1887, at the age of seventy-nine years and nine months. She married her cousin, Henry Fish. They had two children, Wilson and Samuel, both of whom died in early manhood. On the death of her husband, Mrs. Fish came into possession of a large amount of real estate. She deeded to the town the Lower Village Common, and gave to the Baptist Society the lot on which their church stands. She was averse to selling her real estate, and at her death retained some valuable tracts in the heart of the town. She was a woman of great independence of character and a determined will, was true to her friends, and helpful in times of trouble and need.

(8) Samuel Fish, Jr., was for many years Superintendent in one of the Amoskeag mills in Manchester, N. H. He died Jan. 16, 1863, and his widow, Elvira Fish died Dec. 12, 1896.

(9) Esther married Laban Morse. Mrs. Morse died Sept. 5, 1896.

(10) Lucia married Jotham D. Otterson, who was Superintendent of the Lancaster Gingham Mills in Clinton.

(11) Horatio died young.

## THE HUMPHREYS.

A family prominent in the history of Athol from the organization of the First Church in 1750 to the present time, is the Humphrey family, whose first representative in this town was Rev. James Humphrey, the first minister of old Pequoig. The first one of the Humphrey family who came to this country was Jonas Humphrey, who came to Dorchester with his wife Frances, and son James, from Wendover, in Buckinghamshire, England, in 1634. James, the son, was twenty-six years of age when they arrived. He was grantee of Necklands in 1637; member of the church in 1639; freeman May 13, 1640; and proprietor in the great lots in 1646. He lived in what is now called Humphrey Street in Dorchester, and the estate or portions of it are now in possession of his descendants. In the ancient graveyard in Dorchester is a monument with the following inscription:

"ELDER JAMES HUMPHREYS, WHO DIED MAY 12, 1686, AGED 78."

"Inclosed within this shrine is sacred dust,  
And only waits for the rising of the just.  
Most useful while he lived; adorned his station,  
Even to old age he serv'd his generation:  
Since his death thought of with great veneration."

"How great a blessing this Ruling Elder he  
Unto the Church, and Town, and Pastors, three.  
Mather, he first did by him help receive;  
Flint, he did next of burdens much relieve;  
Renowned Danforth, he did help with skill.  
Esteemed high by all;—bear fruit until  
Yielding to death his glorious seat did fill."

Elder James had a son Hopestill, whose son Jonas was the father of James Humphrey, who was born in Dorchester, March 30, 1722. He graduated at Harvard College in 1744, taught school in Dorchester in 1748, and was ordained minister of Pequoig Nov. 7, 1750. Mr. Humphrey commenced his duties as pastor of this town under

very trying and discouraging circumstances. His salary was small, a trifle over twenty shillings a week. His parishioners were few, there being probably not more than twenty families in the place at the time of his settlement, and they were in constant danger from the hostile Indians. For three years did the young minister preach with his gun by his side, while some of his flock guarded the doors. The next year after his settlement, Rev. Mr. Humphrey was married, Oct. 9, 1751, to Miss Esther Wiswell of Dorchester, a lady of high respectability, and much energy of character who was highly esteemed and much respected by the people of this town, and lived to an advanced age. The record of this marriage is entered upon the Church Book in the handwriting of Mr. Humphrey as follows :

“—Dorchester, October the 9th, 1751, James Humphrey and Esther Wiswell was married, and the third day we got home to Pequage.” The reception of the pastor and his young wife by the people of Pequig is thus described: “The occasion of the return of their pastor with his young and accomplished bride was one of lively and exciting interest to the unpolished but affectionate parishioners of Pequig. Before the sun had dissipated the dew on the morning of the third of November, a company of happy men and joyous youth mounted on horseback, each with his good wife or smiling maiden seated on the pillion behind him, were riding over the old street, now moving with cautious step along the obstructed path, and now galloping in frolicsome glee across some open plain, full of high anticipation, on their way to Barre to welcome the

arrival of their absent pastor, and escort him with his polished bride within the precincts of their own rude but happy homes. That was a joyous day for the settlers on these hills. The few who remained were busy making due preparation for the reception of so important a personage as their pastor's welcome bride." For more than twenty years pastor and people lived together in harmony, during the entire period of which, but three church meetings are recorded. Elements of discord began to appear in 1773, and increased in intensity through the years until his dismissal by an ecclesiastical council, Feb. 13, 1782. After his dismissal, Mr. Humphrey withdrew his connection with the church in Athol, and connected himself with the church in Warwick, but continued to reside in Athol until his death, May 8, 1796. Mrs. Humphrey died March 8, 1822, aged ninety-four years. Their remains rest in the family tomb in the old burying ground, a short distance from the lower end of Pleasant Street.

Rev. James Humphrey had six children, Sarah, John, Lois, James, Royal and Calvin. Sarah died in infancy, and Calvin died when but little more than six years of age, Lois married an Oliver.

JOHN HUMPHREY, the oldest son, was born Jan. 8, 1758, and died Jan. 24, 1837. He was prominently identified with town affairs, served as selectman for several years, and was Town Clerk for twenty-one years, the longest time the office has ever been held by one person. He had eight children. Of these two died in infancy. Frances married Dr. Wm. H. Williams, and died in 1887, at the age of ninety years and three months. Anna married

Samuel Sweetser, Jr. Clarissa married Spencer Field, a brother of Hon. Charles Field, and lived for many years in New Orleans.

CHARLES HUMPHREY, born Oct. 9, 1807, married Jane Jones, and moved to Lancaster, Mass., where he died.

JOHN HARVEY HUMPHREY, the youngest son, was born Jan. 16, 1813. He married Urania Barrett, of Putney, Vt., May 9, 1837. He was a farmer. He moved to Boston about thirty years ago, and after a few years to Philadelphia, where he died. His son John was killed on board the Cumberland in the late war. He has a daughter, Flora Corson, living in Philadelphia.

ROYAL HUMPHREY, the second son of Rev. James, was born Sept. 22, 1761. He was one of the early physicians of Athol. He had five children, John Flavel, Arathusa, Otis, Henry and Esther.

JOHN FLAVEL HUMPHREY, the oldest son of Dr. Royal Humphrey, was born Sept. 7, 1788. He married Betsey Eager, of Gardner, Mass. He was clerk in a store before marriage, and went to Albany, N. Y., where he engaged in the grocery business. His health failed him, and he returned to Athol, where he served as Deputy Sheriff for some time. He had four children: Edwin, born July 15, 1814, John Flavel, Jr., born Jan. 29, 1819, Caroline, born June 28, 1821, and Rebecca, born Sept. 15, 1823.

JOHN FLAVEL HUMPHREY, JR., was born in Albany while his father was in business in that city, and removed to Athol with his parents when a few months old. He learned the carpenter's trade, which he worked at for several years, was engaged at one time in manufacturing, and



was for fifteen years in the general hardware business with Samuel Lee at the Centre. He married Cordelia Baker, of Troy, N. H. They had one son, George Flavel. Mrs. Humphrey died April 29, 1892, and Mr. Humphrey was married again Sept. 30, 1894, to Hattie A. Crosby.

Rev. George Flavel Humphrey, son of John Flavel Humphrey, Jr., was born in Athol, May 4th, 1847. He prepared for college at the Athol High school, and entered Williams College in the junior class in 1871. Having completed the junior and senior years, he entered Auburn Theological Seminary, graduating in 1874. He was ordained in the gospel ministry of the Congregational church by the Hampshire East Conference, Mass., Jan. 7, 1875, and has served the following churches as pastor: North church, Amherst, Mass., 1874 and 1875; Elmwood church, Providence, R. I., 1877 to 1880; the Presbyterian church, Milford, N. Y., 1882 to 1885, and in April, 1885, became pastor of the church at Ninevah, N. Y., where he is now located. He married H. Beatrice Hotchkiss, of Virgil, N. Y., Jan. 28, 1875.

Caroline Humphrey, daughter of John Flavel Humphrey, Senior, married Ebenezer Brock, and Rebecca married Solomon Hoyt of Bernardston.

Arathusa, the oldest daughter of Dr. Royal Humphrey, was born Nov. 7, 1795, and married Rev. John Walker, Otis died young, and Esther, the youngest daughter, married Hiram Allen of Amherst, Mass.

HENRY HUMPHREY was born Nov. 7, 1795. He married Sophronia Parker, June 21, 1836, and had three children, Henry Martin, and two who died in infancy. He was a farmer, and lived on "Athol Street."

DR. H. M. HUMPHREY, son of Henry Humphrey, was born in Athol, Aug. 10, 1840. He received his education in the public schools of the town, studied dentistry two years in Boston, and was graduated from the Philadelphia Dental College. He engaged with the late Dr. J. H. Williams, in the dental business in September, 1863, with whom he was associated for five years, and also continued the business alone for a year or two. In 1870, he purchased the drug business of Mr. Williams, which he has continued to the present time. He has been honored with various positions of trust by his townsmen, having served on the School Committee for several years, and is now one of the board of Registrars of Voters. In 1882, he represented this district in the Legislature, and was a prominent member of the Committee on Education. He has for many years been an active and influential member of the Congregational church, and was for three years the Superintendent of its Sunday School. He is also one of the directors of the Athol National Bank, and has been prominently identified with the Masonic fraternity, having held the position of District Deputy Grand Master of this Masonic district. He was married Oct. 18, 1866, to Abbie F. Holton of Athol, and has two children, John H. and Helen.

JOHN H. HUMPHREY is a graduate of the Athol High School, and is now associated with his father in business. He is the Secretary of the Worcester Northwest Agricultural Society, and chairman of the Republican Town Committee, and is prominently identified with the social and political affairs of the town. Helen is also a graduate of



HENRY M. HUMPHREY.



the Athol High School, and of the Bridgewater Normal School, and is now one of the teachers in the Fitchburg Normal School.

JAMES HUMPHREY, the third son of Rev. James, was born Dec. 29, 1763. He was the merchant of the town, and prominent in town and political affairs, serving as selectman seven years, town treasurer four years, was representative to the Legislature for ten years, between 1806 and 1825, and was State Senator in 1817 and 1818. He was also postmaster of the Athol office. He had four children. Lucy married Fenno Thorpe, and one died in childhood.

JOHN WISWELL HUMPHREY, son of James Humphrey, was born Aug. 9, 1801, graduated at Williams College in 1823, commenced the study of law at Greenfield, but subsequently went into the dry goods trade in Athol. He represented the town in the Legislature two years, was town clerk five years, and selectman two years.

JAMES HUMPHREY, son of James Humphrey (2,) had three children: Antoinette, who married a brother of Gov. A. H. Bullock, and died in Athol, leaving a son, Rufus A. Bullock, who is a lawyer in Boston. James, who married Mary D. Ripley, was a merchant in Boston, and left a widow and three children, two daughters and a son, James Humphrey; another son, Fred, died in his youth in Athol.

#### THE HOAR FAMILY.

The origin of the name of this family has been ascribed by some to Mount Horeb, the tribe of Horites, the territory of La Hore, and even to the Egyptian Horeis, but

probably all this is merely imaginary, dating too far back into the distances and darkness of long past ages. Families of the name of Hore have been found in very early times of English history, many of that name having sat as members of Parliament in early times from various boroughs and counties in England. In early times the name was spelled "Hore," later Hoare; the family that came to America omitted the final letter "e" in their name, and have ever since continued spelling the name Hoar, although there are certain branches of the family that have adopted the spelling of the name as "Horr." The Latin "hora", signifies an hour," a mark and boundary of time.

The ancestor of the family that settled in America was one Charles Hoare, who was of Frampton-on-Severn, near Gloucester, England, according to the statement of Capt. Edward Hoare of England, who a few years since published a history of the family. This Charles Hoare married Annie Clifford, and they had a son Charles, who was an alderman and sheriff of Gloucester in 1634. The son Charles married Joanna Hinkesman. He died in 1638, and administration was granted to his widow, Joanna Hoare, in December of that year. Not long after his death, his widow with all the children except the eldest son, came to New England about 1640, or perhaps a little earlier. Joanna died in Braintree, Dec. 20, 1661. She had four sons and two daughters. Leonard Hoar, son of Charles and Joanna Hoar, graduated at Harvard College in 1650, and was President of the College from 1672 to 1675. The son John, settled first in Scituate, but later went to Concord, Mass., where he died April





TIMOTHY HOAR, JR.



2, 1704. He was an eminent lawyer, and had much to do with the Indians. He was the agent for the colonies in negotiating with the Indians for the liberation of Mrs. Rowlandson, who was taken captive at the destruction of Lancaster, Mass., in 1676. He was present at the interview with King Phillip and chiefs at Redemption Rock, Princeton, Mass., which resulted in the liberation of the captive. Daniel, the son of John, married Mary Stratton, July 19, 1677. She was the mother of eleven children. Her son, Lieut. Daniel, born in 1680, married Sarah Jones, Dec. 20, 1705, and was the father of Timothy, who married Abigail Brooks of Concord, Jan. 23, 1752. Their son Timothy was born in Concord, Mass., March 15, 1759, and served in the continental army in the Revolution. He married Lydia Hunt, also of Concord, Oct. 9, 1788, whose ancestry can be traced far back in the annals of English history, Queen Elizabeth conferring many favors upon the Hunt family in her reign. They moved from Concord to Westminster, Mass., in April, 1789, Mrs. Hoar carrying her eldest son William, in her arms on horseback, a distance of thirty-three miles. They had eleven children, seven sons and four daughters.

TIMOTHY HOAR, JR., the second son of Timothy and Lydia (Hunt) Hoar, was born in Westminster, Mass., July 24, 1791. When about sixteen years of age, he commenced to serve an apprenticeship with Mr. Ephraim Williams of Templeton, and went with him to a place called Black Rock, near what is now the city of Buffalo, N. Y. He returned to Westminster, probably in 1812,

where he remained but a short time, when he went to Templeton and worked at his trade of a carpenter, and came to Athol about 1816, and located at the Centre. With Paul Morse he developed the water power on the property now owned by Geo. S. Brewer, at the corner of Main and Pleasant streets. There he engaged in the wheelwright business, and the manufacture of sleighs. He added a dwelling house to his factory, which was occupied by his brother William and family with whom he boarded until his marriage. In the records of the old First Church we find the following: "Athol, January the 21, 1819, were married Timothy Hoar and Lydia Bowker, both of this town, by me Joseph Estabrook." Lydia Bowker was a daughter of Asa and Susannah (Bryant) Bowker, and was born in Phillipston, June 9, 1794. They settled down and commenced housekeeping in the house adjoining his factory. About 1832, he built and moved into a new house nearly opposite the old one on the north side of Union Square. At about the same time he also erected the building now occupied by Newton & Call, grocers, and established in it the first bakery in town. Between 1833 and 1835, he built a dam and erected a factory on Mill Brook on the site now occupied by the factories of L. Morse & Sons. In this factory he put in operation the first circular saw mill in this part of the state. He made a spoke machine for turning spokes, axe handles, etc., which was a great labor saving machine. He used it for two or three years, when other parties claimed priority, and he discontinued the use of it. Later he invented a mitre dovetailing machine for

making boxes strong enough at the corners without nails or glue. He made a trade with Boston parties, and this business was continued by himself and others for several years. In 1841, his factory was burned and was a total loss, there being no insurance upon it, but he immediately commenced to rebuild. About the year 1842, he associated himself with William Fletcher and Jonathan Kidder of Athol, and they built a dam and saw mill on Mill Brook. The saw mill formed a part of the sash and blind factory of Edwin Ellis & Son, that was destroyed by fire in December, 1896, and the pond flowed by the dam is now known as "Lake Ellis." This dam gave away in December, 1845, destroying considerable property along the stream, but was soon rebuilt. The first shipment to Boston of sash and blinds, made by machinery in the town of Athol, was from the shop of Mr. Hoar, about 1845. In 1847 or 1848, he sold out his business to his son, Addison D. Horr and Joseph Proctor. He purchased a part of the old hotel, and moved portions of it on to Central street, and also in 1852, built a residence for himself at the corner of Park and Central streets, which was his home until he removed to Worcester, in 1866. He was a man of great business activity and push, and did much for the building up of the Athol of his day, indeed, it would seem that from the Ellis dam to the corner of Park and Central streets, his footsteps were marked with either a mill or dwelling built and owned by himself. He was a man of positive and pronounced opinions, and not afraid of expressing them. He was a member of the First Unitarian church. Politically he was a Whig, until that

party met its death. The Free Soil movement met his approbation, and when the Republican party was organized, he voted that ticket, and continued in the party the remainder of his life. He seemed to care little for office but was ready to work on committees for the improvement of the town.

Mrs. Lydia Bowker Hoar, his first wife, died Sept. 11, 1848, after a short illness. He married for his second wife Miss Hannah H. Ellis of Barre, Mass., daughter of Bethuel Ellis. She died in Cambridgeport, Mass., April 2, 1884. The funeral services of each were held in the First Unitarian church of Athol, and their remains were placed in the family lot in the Highland cemetery. Mr. Hoar lived only about two years after removing to Worcester, and died in that city Feb. 20, 1868. His remains were brought to Athol, and buried in the family lot. There were six children by the first marriage, and one by the second. Those by the first marriage were Addison D., Lucy Ann, Susan Graves, Christopher C., Charles and Eliza.

(1) Addison D., the eldest son, was born March 28, 1820. In 1847 or 1848, he associated himself with Joseph Proctor, and purchased the box factory owned by his father, which they operated successfully until he engaged in the sash, door and blind business with Sumner R. Morse and his brother Charles Horr, in Detroit, Mich., in 1852. At the same time he was engaged in the box business, he was also engaged with others in the sash, door and blind business in a shop just across the stream from the box factory. He remained in Detroit until the

spring of 1856, when he went to Boston, where he engaged in business and built a house. He returned to Athol, and served on the board of selectmen in 1862 and 1863, having much to do with recruiting soldiers for the suppression of the rebellion. He was also for some time associated with Lyman W. Hapgood, in the manufacture of matches. He never married, and died in Boston Aug. 5, 1890.

(2) Lucy Ann and Eliza, both died young, the former being only four years old, and the latter two years.

(3) Susan Graves, was born Jan. 24, 1825. She married Matthew Cheney, a native of North Orange, and their residence for many years was Boston, Mass., where he was engaged in the Chickering & Sons piano factory. They had one daughter, Ella Bowker Cheney. Mrs. Cheney died in Boston, Aug. 13, 1892, and Mr. Cheney Dec. 3, 1896, in Dorchester.

(4) Christopher C. Horr, was born March 9, 1827. He was employed for many years by the Vermont & Mass. R. R. Company, first as brakeman, and later as conductor of freight and passenger trains. He married Mrs. Lucy F. Wadsworth, Dec. 20, 1868. She died June 14, 1886, and he married Miss Louisa Darling, Jan. 28, 1888. He died Dec. 15, 1889.

(5) Charles Horr, was born Aug. 9, 1830. He was associated with his brother Addison D., and Joseph Proctor, in the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds for about two years, when he went to Detroit, Mich., in the fall of 1851, and was associated with his brother and Sumner R. Morse, in the same business that he had been engaged in

Athol, where he remained until 1856. He then returned to Athol, and was soon after associated with Samuel Lee in building the Summit House at the Centre, which was opened to the public, April 1, 1858. He has never married.

FREDERICK E. HORR, the only child of Timothy and Hannah H. (Ellis) Horr, was born in Athol, April 11, 1853. He married Miss Ellen H. Dimond of Concord, N. H., Feb. 15, 1882. He has for some years been in the United States post office service as carrier in and about Boston, being now in the Brighton district.

The family of Geo. W. Horr are descendants of Jonathan Hoar of Taunton and Middleboro, Mass., who was a grandson of Daniel, of Concord.

### THE MORSES.

The Morses of Athol are descended from Samuel Morse, of whom history gives the following: Born, in England, 1585; emigrated to New England 1635; settled at Dedham, 1637, and died at Medfield, April 5, 1654.

It further says, that he belonged to that class of Puritans who strove to separate from the corruption of the English church, yet continued in her communion until the embarkation for this country. His emigration evidently originated in the same circumstances, and was undoubtedly dictated by the same well known motives as that of the earlier emigrants to New England.

The first member of the family of whom we have any record as being a resident of Athol, was William Morse, of the sixth generation, son of Paul, who resided at Holliston and Medway. Wm. Morse was born May 10, 1738,

and died in Athol, Feb. 6, 1830, aged eighty-eight years. He was in the second French war, and was compelled with his company to march fourteen miles on the bed of a river in water; he was with his companions seized with a fever, with which half of the company died; the remainder became temporarily insane. His insanity regularly returned at intervals of fourteen years during the remainder of his days, and finally led to his exposure and death in a snow storm, among the Bear's Den hills, near where he lived.

PAUL MORSE, the fourth son of William, was born in 1780, and died Aug. 29, 1838; he married Sally Rice of Ashby, and had eight children. Two died in infancy. He was one of the early manufacturers of Athol, and established a tan yard on Mill Brook in 1807, where he carried on a flourishing business for many years, being assisted in his later years by his son, Laban Morse, who continued the business until 1845, when the works were destroyed by the great freshet of that year. The six sons of Paul Morse who grew to manhood were, Sumner R., Laban, George, John Edwin, Cushing B., and Charles W., and these six brothers are said to have measured thirty-six feet in height, and weighed twelve hundred pounds.

SUMNER R. MORSE, the second son of Paul Morse, was born Dec. 8, 1808; he married Nancy Stratton, April 25, 1833. With his brothers, Laban and Cushing B., he patented an improved grate, called the Air Distributor, for burning light fuel, such as sawdust and bark, for which they were awarded a silver medal at the State Fair in Buffalo, N. Y., in 1848. He was a merchant in Athol and Wendell for many years, and was also engaged in

various business enterprises, among which was the palm leaf hat business. He was a prominent member of the Methodist Church. He married for his second wife Mary Stratton, and died Dec. 11, 1870.

LABAN MORSE has been more prominently identified with Athol and its manufacturing interests than any of the children of Paul Morse, of whom he was the third son. He was born in Athol, Jan. 30, 1812. In his early life he worked with his father in the tannery, and when that was swept away by the freshet of 1845, he turned his attention to furniture making, beginning with towel racks and cribs, in a little shop in the rear of the homestead, where he was born and always lived. In 1865, he took his sons Leander B. and Henry F., in company with him, the firm being known as L. Morse & Sons, in which he continued until 1877, when he retired from business.

He married Esther Fish, April 16, 1838, by whom he had three children, Henry T., Leander B. and Frank F. Personally, Mr. Morse was a quiet man, never seeking publicity, but always interested and helpful in local affairs. He was prominently connected with the fire department for many years, and took a great interest in it, was a member of the board of Selectmen, and was elected to the Legislature of 1855 by the Know-Nothing party. During the war of the Rebellion, he was a great worker in behalf of the soldiers, and in 1862, when the reports of the sufferings and loss of the Athol soldiers who were in the thickest of the fight at Newbern reached Athol, he was appointed the agent of the people, to repair at once to Newbern, and to aid in every possible way, our sick and wounded





LABAN MORSE.



soldiers. He left home the next morning, March 21, and arrived at Newbern March 25, where he was most joyfully greeted by the soldiers. He slept, rolled in his blanket upon the floor of the hospital, that he might be ready for any service, and devoted all his energies to the welfare of the soldiers. After an absence of more than five weeks, he returned with a number of sick and wounded soldiers, and at a public meeting called to hear his report, May 5, 1862, a unanimous vote of thanks was extended to him for his faithful and laborious services. For all his time and labor Mr. Morse declined any remuneration. His name will ever be held in grateful remembrance by the many whom he relieved and comforted. He died Jan. 31, 1890.

A sketch of Henry T. Morse will be found in the Grand Army chapter.

LEANDER B. MORSE, the second son of Laban Morse, was born in Athol, March 29, 1842. He attended the common schools and the High School the first term it was opened, and then worked in the shop of his father until he enlisted in the Band of the 27th Regiment. He was on duty at Roanoke Island and Newbern, and was discharged in August, 1862, by a government order discontinuing the Regimental Bands. After returning home he went to Boston in April of the following spring, and was Foreman on Boston Common and Public Garden until November, 1863, when he reentered the service as a musician in the 56th Regiment, and was mustered out of service July 22, 1865. In the fall of 1865, he engaged in business with his father and brother, Henry T., in the manufacture of towel racks, settees, cribs and other furniture, under

the firm name of L. Morse & Sons, in which business he has continued to the present time.


Mr. Morse has been prominently identified with the political affairs of the town and district ; he was elected by the Democrats and Greenbackers as Representative to the Legislature of 1879, was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Chicago in 1884 ; has been the Democratic candidate for State Senator and Councillor from this district, and for many years was a member of the Democratic Town Committee. He has not held town office with the exception of being one of the Engineers of the Fire Department for several years. He is a member of Parker Post, G. A. R., and of Athol Lodge of Masons, Union Royal Arch Chapter, and Athol Commandery of Knights Templars. He was married November, 1868, to Martha E. Brooks of Athol, and has one son, Sumner L. Morse.

FRANK F. MORSE, the youngest son of Laban Morse, was born in Athol, Nov. 7, 1848 ; attended the common schools of the town, and then went to work in the shops of his father, becoming a member of the firm of L. Morse & Sons in 1877, in which business he has since continued. He was married May 19, 1872, to Maria L. Smith, daughter of the late Russell Smith of Athol. Mr. Morse was for several years leader of the old Athol Brass Band, and is a prominent member of all the Odd Fellow organizations of the town.

GEORGE MORSE was born Oct. 31, 1813, and married Sophia Proctor, Nov. 5, 1835. He was engaged in the manufacture of boots, in the building now occupied by

A black and white portrait of a man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit and a bow tie. He is looking slightly to the right.

LEANDER B. MORSE

A black and white portrait of a man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit and a bow tie. He is looking directly at the camera. The portrait is tilted clockwise.

FRANK F. MORSE



Newton & Call. He enlisted in Co. B., 27th Mass. Regiment. His son, John R., also enlisted in the same Company, and another son, Frederick P., was in the 56th Mass. Regiment.

JOHN EDWIN MORSE was born May 12, 1817. He went South when a young man, and lived for many years in Washington, D. C., where he died. He was clerk in some of the prominent hotels of the city, and was also at one time employed on the public parks. He married Elizabeth Stratton, in 1845.

CUSHING B. MORSE, was born September 16, 1820. He was for several years engaged in the palm leaf hat business, and later in the manufacture of shoes, at one time with Andrew Chubb, and afterwards with W. D. Lee. He also travelled several years selling shoes, and had a shoe store where the Centre post office now is. He married Julia Munsell. Nov. 24, 1847. They have two children, Mary A., who married Charles Sanderson, and now lives in Amherst, and Walter E., who lives in Athol, and is engaged in the trucking business.

CHARLES W. MORSE was born July 1, 1825. He married Hannah Cheney of Athol, a sister of Amos L. Cheney, and was employed for many years in the Chickering piano factory in Boston, being one of the oldest employees of that company. They had two children, Charles Edgar, who is head bookkeeper in the North Packing and Provision Co. of Boston, and Evelyn, who is a teacher in the Boston schools. Mr. Morse died April 18, 1896. His remains were brought to Athol and buried in the Highland Cemetery.

## THE HAVENS.

The Havens of Massachusetts are descended from one Richard Haven, who came from England and settled in Framingham. His grandson, John Haven, came from Framingham to Athol about 1760, and was one of the first settlers of Chestnut Hill. He was one of the most prominent men in town, having been one of the first board of Selectmen, was the first Town Clerk, the first Representative to the Great and General Court, and was chosen deacon of the old First Church, Nov. 10, 1774, which office he probably held until his death, July 12, 1807, at the age of eighty-one years. He had two sons, John Haven, Jr., and Daniel. John Haven, Jr., was in the Revolution, and on his return in 1777, built the house now standing on the Josiah Haven farm. He had six boys and five girls, all of whom grew up to manhood and womanhood. The boys were, Levi, John, Asa, Samuel, Chauncey and Jotham. Levi lived near the brick yard, and removed to Vermont; John married a Miss Death of Wendell, and lived on the place now occupied by Merrick Sly, near South Athol. Among his children were Samuel S. Haven, who died in Athol in 1894, at the age of seventy-seven years, and Ezra Haven, who is now living near South Athol. Of his daughters, one married the late Edmund Gage, and another, William G. Fay; Asa lived in Hardwick and Barre, and died in the latter town; Samuel died when twenty-two or twenty-three years of age; Chauncey went to Girard, Pennsylvania, where he died, over eighty years of age; Jotham lived in Athol, on the old homestead. He married Hannah Taft, and had seven child-



ren, Oramel, Josiah, Eunice, Jotham F., Hannah M., John H. and William La Roy.

(1) Oramel lived at home on the farm, and died at the age of fifty-two years.

(2) JOSIAH HAVEN was born March 16, 1818. He learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked until 1850, when he took his father's farm, and during the remainder of his life was engaged in farming. He was often called upon by his fellow townsmen to assume offices of public trust, having served on the Board of Selectmen thirteen years, between the years 1851 and 1883, and also held various other town offices. He was a member of the Know-Nothing party, and in 1853, was elected Representative to the Legislature by a majority of one, after an exciting contest of two or three days, and served in the Legislature of 1854. He married Susan Wiley, Oct. 14, 1857, by whom he had four children, Herbert, who is engaged in the drug business at Seattle, Washington; Erwin J., who lives on the old homestead; Evelyn, who was teacher in the Athol schools for several years, and married Fred Judkins of Worcester, and Viola E., who is a graduate of the Athol High School, and has been a teacher in Athol, Phillipston and Petersham.

(3) Eunice, born in 1820, married Deacon James G. Smith of Phillipston, and died in Athol in 1894.

(4) Jotham F. Haven was born in 1825. He married Mary Prouty, and had two children, John, who is a clerk in the grocery store of O. T. Brooks & Co., and Isabella, who married Frank W. Whitney. He died in 1886.

(5) Hannah M., born in 1829, married Levi W. Car-

ruth, and is now living with her brother, Wm. La Roy in Morristown, N. J.

( 6 ) John H., born in 1833, died in 1855, of consumption.

( 7 ) WILLIAM LA ROY HAVEN was born May 24, 1835, and lived at home working on the farm and attending the district school for ten or twelve weeks in the winter, until twenty years of age. He then taught school during the winter season, attended school in the fall and spring, and worked on the farm summers until the fall of 1860, when he entered Williams College, from which he graduated in 1864. The two following years he taught school in Wisconsin, and in the fall of 1866, was appointed Principal of Plattsburg Academy, Plattsburg, N. Y. The following year the public schools of the town were graded, and the Academy was merged into the High School, when he was appointed to take charge of the schools of the town, remaining in that position two years. In the fall of 1869, he received the appointment of Principal of the High School and Superintendent of the public schools in Morristown, N. J., which position he still holds. In December, 1867, he married Florence A. Watson of Fredonia, N. Y. She died in 1870, and in 1873 he married Elizabeth Stuart Tweed, of Williamstown, N. J., by whom he has two sons, Samuel C., who has graduated at Amherst College, and Wm. La Roy, Jr., about thirteen years of age.

#### THE STOCKWELLS.

John Stockwell, who emigrated from Scotland to America in 1626, was the father of the American Stockwells. His grandchildren settled in Sutton, Mass., about the year

1700. Among the children of John Stockwell, Jr., of Sutton, was Noah Stockwell, who was born in Sutton, May 6, 1746, and came to Athol about 1796. He bought the farm on the Petersham road, which has been in possession of the Stockwell family ever since, and the owner of the place when he purchased it was one John Stockwell. Noah Stockwell was married twice, and had twelve children, all of whom were born in Sutton. He died Oct. 19, 1839, aged ninety-three years.

NOAH STOCKWELL, JR., who was born in Sutton, July 10, 1784, came with his father to Athol. He married Polly Briggs, daughter of Elder Isaac Briggs of Athol. He was a farmer, a worthy and respected citizen, served the town several years as Selectman, and was Deacon of the Baptist church for many years, until his death, Feb. 9, 1846. His children were: Freeland, Cyrus, Stillman, Mary, Sarah, Nancy and Francis J.

(1) Freeland Stockwell was born March 19, 1808. He married Minerva Ball, by whom he had two children, Harrison, who served in the Union army, and lives in Springfield, Mass., and Maria, who married E. Hopkins, a merchant of Belchertown. Mr. Stockwell was a millwright by occupation. He died June 17, 1887.

(2) Cyrus Stockwell was born in 1809, married Ruth Bancroft of Erving, Dec. 3, 1835, and died Sept. 29, 1895. He had one child, George Stockwell, born Dec. 27, 1836, who married Diantha P. Burrill, of Auburn, May 1, 1860, by whom he had two children, George F., who died in childhood, and Lena B., born in August, 1872. Mr. Stockwell is a farmer, and a deacon in the Second Advent Church.

(3) Stillman Stockwell was born March 31, 1812, and married Wealtha Spencer of Westfield in 1833. She died in 1838, and he married for his second wife Jane Seaver of Phillipston, in 1839, by whom he had three children, Spencer Stockwell who enlisted in the army and died while in the service, Alfred, who died at the age of sixteen years, and Wealtha J., born in 1844, who married Albert J. Battersby, and lives in Petersham.

(4) Mary, born April 5, 1819, married Kimball Cole, and resided in Laconia, N. H. She had four children.

(5) Sarah, born Jan. 4, 1821, married Amos Drury of Wendell. They lived in Athol, and left one child, Henry Drury.

(6) Nancy, born July 22, 1825, died when twenty years of age.

(7) Francis J. Stockwell, born July 25, 1830, married Harriet Whitney, by whom he had one child, Frank J. Stockwell, a machinist. He married for his second wife Ruth L. Alexander, by whom he had two children, both of whom are dead. He lives at East Walpole, Mass.

John Stockwell, brother of Noah, Jr., was born Sept. 21, 1793. He married Betsey Briggs of Athol in 1815. They had six children, all of whom removed from town.

Another Stockwell family settled in Phillipston, near Prospect Hill. Josiah Stockwell of this family, was one of the old-time stage proprietors, and run a stage route from Worcester to Winchester, N. H. Ginery Twichell commenced his career driving stage for Mr. Stockwell.

Sylvester Stockwell, a son of Josiah, was born in Phillipston in 1808. He carried on the sash and blind business

with Chandler Skinner, in the Upper Village, where the John E. Woodis shop now is, and later came to the Lower Village, and carried on the same kind of business in a building that stood where the shop of Horace Hager is now located, until his shop was destroyed by fire. For many years he did all the teaming for the shops of the Lower Village. He married Polly Fay, Sept. 4, 1832, and had six children, two boys and four girls. He died March 27, 1890. His sons are Sylvester J. and Otis J.

OTIS J. STOCKWELL was born in Athol, Sept. 26, 1844. He was clerk in the grocery store of S. E. Fay two years, and in the dry goods and clothing store of Thorpe & Sloan five years. He also for many years carried on a store in the Main street block, which he bought in 1869. He is now engaged in farming just over the line in Orange. He married Eliza A. Wheeler of Athol, July 7, 1868, and has three boys and two girls. He is a prominent member of the Methodist church and one of its trustees.

Sylvester J. Stockwell has been for many years a foreman in the C. M. Lee shoe shops.

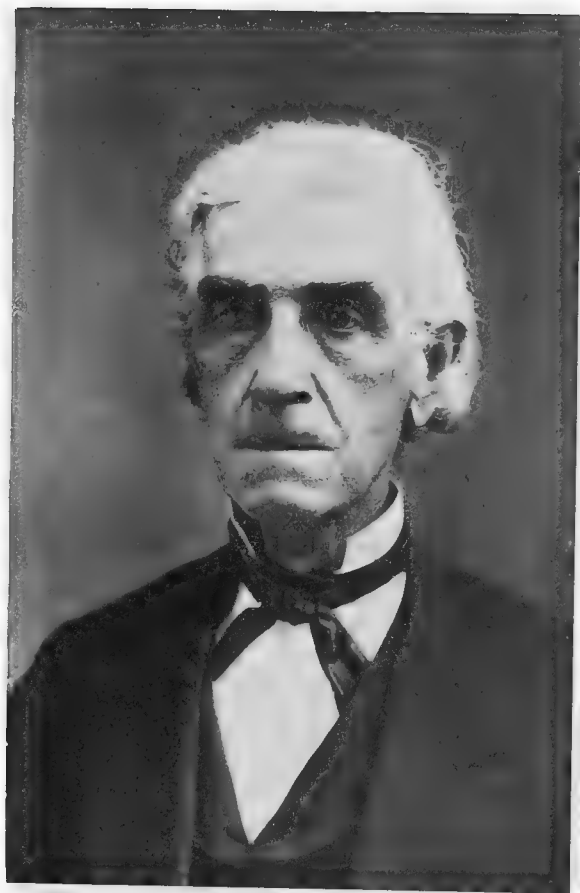
#### THE FAYS.

Solomon Fay came from Shrewsbury, Mass. to Athol, and was deeded a grant of land from Massachusetts Bay Co. in 1760. He was in the French and Indian War, and participated in the battle on Abraham's Heights. He settled on the place now occupied by William Oliver. His brother Joseph, settled on the place known as the Hiram H. Gage farm. Solomon and Joseph were members of a family of twenty-five children. Solomon had three sons and eight daughters. The sons were Artemas, Nahum and Jonas.

ARTEMAS FAY married Delight Cleveland of Walpole, Mass. Their children were: Sabra, who died in childhood, Emerson and Lysander.

EMERSON FAY was the father of Farwell F. Fay and Celestina M. He married Nancy A. Foster of New Salem. He was a prominent citizen of New Salem, and represented that town in the Legislature.

REV. LYSANDER FAY was born in Athol, May 3, 1805. His parents were poor and hard-working people, and his early educational advantages were very limited. He however, made the most of the opportunities offered by the district school, and by hard study at home by the light of the pine knot, supplemented with a few weeks study at New Salem Academy, at the age of seventeen was ready for his first experience in teaching school. From this time for seventeen years, he was engaged as a teacher, having taught twenty-eight district and select schools, ninety-three writing schools, and having under his charge at different times more than four thousand pupils. He was desirous of taking a college course, and had nearly fitted himself to enter college, when failing health and the care of his aged parents, changed his plans. In the summer of 1828, when twenty-three years of age, he was baptized by Elder Briggs, and united with the Baptist Church, of which he was ever after an honored member. In September, 1831, he was licensed to preach, and from that time onward, was a successful preacher of the gospel, being pastor of the church in Orange nearly eleven years, at Royalston Centre five years, at Warwick about the same length of time, and at Winchendon for eleven years. Be-



REV. LYSANDER FAY.









SERENO E. FAY.

sides these regular pastorates, he labored in other churches, having preached over four thousand sermons, baptized one hundred and seventeen persons, and attended nearly five hundred funerals. As was truly said at his funeral, "all along these hills and valleys are scattered the faithful witnesses of his godly life and noble service". He served several years on the School Committee, and in 1848, represented the town in the Legislature. In 1830, he married Priscilla E. Chamberlain. They had eight children. Adoniram J., Sereno E., Lovinia E., Josephine A., Deborah M., Othello A., Priscilla E., and Clara L. In 1880, Mr. and Mrs. Fay celebrated their golden wedding. Mr. Fay died July 9, 1881. His widow is still living, at the age of ninety-one years.

(1) ADONIRAM J., married Altamiah A. Smith, and resides in Athol. They have had five children, three of whom are now living: Charles L., of the firm of Fay & Fay, grocers, Rosa and Clarence.

(2) SERENO E. FAY was born in 1833. In early life he was a school teacher, having taught for six years in Athol and adjoining towns. He engaged in the grocery business in 1861, in what is now known as the City Hotel block, where he remained five years, when he purchased the property on the opposite side of the street, where he continued in the grocery business for twenty-two years. When he retired from business, in 1888, there was not a person in the village in trade that had continued in business that length of time. He was for several years a member of the School Committee, and has been prominently identified with the Baptist Church for many years,

having been clerk of the Church for more than twenty years, and also for several years was Superintendent of the Sunday School. He married Emma P. Holton of Gill, in 1862. They have two children: Frederick H., engaged in the grocery business in the firm of Fay & Fay, and Perley E., who is connected with W. E. Wood in his hotel and railway eating houses in Greenfield.

(3) Lovinia E. married Deacon Amos Breck of Sterling, and died about 1868, leaving one son.

(4) Josephine A., married Geo. A. Bishop, and died in Leominster in 1892. They had four children.

(5) Deborah M., married Levi Bourne of Athol, who died in the army, leaving one son. She afterwards married Geo. Woods of Leominster.

(6) OTHELLO A. FAY, the youngest son, was born in Athol, Oct. 14, 1844. When eighteen years of age he went to work in the sewing machine shops at Orange, where he continued for three years. He then entered into partnership with his brother Sereno E., in the grocery business, which they continued for twenty-two years. They had stores in both villages, Othello A. having charge of the store at the Centre. He has been engaged in the lumbering business for upwards of fifteen years, operating extensively all through Western Massachusetts, and is now engaged in that and the brokerage business. In 1868, he married Clara A. Lee, daughter of the late Wm. D. Lee, Jr., and has two children, a daughter, the wife of C. W. Pratt of Orange, and a young son. Mr. Fay is one of the most prominent Masons in this part of the country, having taken the degrees of that order up to the thirty-

second. He has been a director of the Athol National Bank for several years.

(7) Priscilla E., married Charles F. Tandy, Sept. 12, 1872. They have three children: Charles Eugene, Wilbert Clifton and Ruth L.

(8) Clara L., married Joseph Slate, Oct. 15, 1868, and lives in Edinburg, Ill., and has three children.

NAHUM FAY, son of Solomon, left no issue.

JONAS FAY married Anna R. Ward of Athol, and had six children: Lucy, Charles, Beriah W., William G., Freeborn and Nancy. Lucy and Charles left no issue.

BERIAH W. FAY was born in Athol, Dec. 2, 1819. His education was obtained in the public schools and at New Salem Academy. In early life he was a popular school teacher, having taught in the Athol schools for eleven winters, and also conducted several select schools. About 1850 he took up surveying, and for nearly half a century has done much of that work in the towns of Northwestern Worcester, and throughout Franklin County. He has been prominently identified with town and public business. In 1861 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace, and in 1872, was elected one of the special commissioners of Franklin County, both of which positions he has held continuously to the present time. In 1865, he was a member of the Legislature, representing the district including New Salem, Orange and Warwick. For thirty-nine years he was a member of the School Committee of New Salem, serving most of the time as chairman of the board. He also served his town for several years as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor, and was recruiting officer

for the town in 1864. He married Hattie L. Ballard of Wendell, Oct. 1, 1868, and they have two children, Harry W. and Beatrice A.

WILLIAM G. FAY married Emily King of New Salem, Oct. 21, 1846. She died and he married for his second wife Sally E. Haven of Athol, in 1850. He served in the war, being a member of Co. E, 53d Regiment. His occupation has been that of boot-maker.

FREEBORN R. FAY married Lucy Augusta Foster June 4, 1849. He enlisted in Co. E, 53d Regiment, and served as Surgeon's Orderly with the regiment in Louisiana. He died in Athol, May, 1865. Mrs. Fay and three children are living, Leona, who married Frank A. Gates, and Waldo and Helen.

FARWELL F. FAY, son of Emerson Fay, was born in Athol Feb. 17, 1833. He was a successful teacher in the Athol schools, and was the second Principal of the High School, which position he relinquished to engage in the study of law in the Harvard Law School. He was admitted to the bar in 1859, and for many years had a large and lucrative practice in Athol. In August, 1862, he recruited Co. E, of the 53d Regiment, of which he was chosen Captain Sept. 13, 1862, and was commissioned by Governor Andrew five days later. At the time of the surrender of Port Hudson, he was in command of the regiment. In July, 1864, he was commissioned as Assistant Adjutant General of Massachusetts, to recruit for the Commonwealth in the Department of Mississippi, in which he did successful work. In 1862, he represented this district in the Legislature, was president of the Worcester North-



CAPT. FARWELL F. FAY.









J. WARD FAY.

west Agricultural Society in 1868, and also represented that Society for three years as its delegate on the State Board of Agriculture. He married Hattie Babbitt, by whom he had three children, one of whom died in infancy, Carrie J. Fay, who died in 1888, and Wm. L. Fay, who is engaged in business in Boston, and who married Arria Flint of that city. The last year's of Mr. Fay's life were spent in Boston, where he was engaged in the practice of law, and where he died in May, 1888.

JOSEPH FAY, who first settled the place known as the Hiram H. Gage farm, came from Wales with his brothers, Solomon and Stephen, and settled in Westboro, Mass., from which place he came to Athol about 1760. He married Abigail Twichell of Athol, and had ten children: Josiah, Nehemiah, Dolly, Matilda, Sally, Nabby, Benjamin, Seth, Hannah and Lucinda. Nehemiah, Sally and Benjamin moved to New York state in early life, Dolly married Daniel Ellenwood, and Matilda married Seneca Ellinwood, and lived in Erving.

JOSIAH FAY, the oldest son of Joseph Fay, was born March 16, 1774. He married Molly Ward of Orange, Sept. 18, 1798. He died March 16, 1834, and Molly, his wife, died Aug. 14, 1866, over ninety-three years of age. They had seven children: Esther W., J. Ward, Minerva, Polly, James S., Adaline and Betsey.

(1) Esther W. Fay married Jonathan Stratton March 8, 1821.

(2) J. WARD FAY was born April 25, 1801. He was engaged in farming most of his life. For several years he was the collector of taxes, and in 1840 was the only con-

stable in town. He married Mary Babbitt of Taunton, and they had six children: Joseph F., Rebecca L., Josiah, Abbie, Martha and Levi B. Mr. Fay died May 6, 1892, at the age of ninety-one years and ten days. Of his children, Rebecca L., Josiah and Martha, died young.

JOSEPH F. FAY enlisted in the 27th Regiment, and served in the Regimental band. He died Nov. 27, 1892, at the age of sixty-two years.

Abbie Fay married Charles Lamb, and resides in Athol.

LEVI B. FAY was born April 14, 1843. During the late war enlisted in Co. E, 53d Regiment, and was with his regiment during its entire campaign in Louisiana and Mississippi. In 1873 he entered into partnership with the late Orrin F. Hunt, in the sale stable, carriage and sleigh repository business, and the firm of Hunt & Fay did an extensive business throughout this part of the country. This partnership was continued until Mr. Hunt's death, and since that time Mr. Fay has conducted the same business. Mr. Fay is one of the leading business men of the town, is a trustee of the Athol Savings Bank, of the Worcester Northwest Agricultural Society, and one of the executive committee of the Athol Board of Trade. He married Hattie A. Smith, Jan. 8, 1866. They have only one child living, Miss Katie Fay.

(3) Minerva Fay married James Oliver, Sept. 18, 1827.

(4) Polly Fay married Sylvester Stockwell, Sept. 4, 1832.

(5) James Sullivan Fay married a Miss Farrar of Petersham, by whom he had one son, James Humphrey



LEVI B. FAY.



Fay. He was married a second time to Harriet A. Twichell, May 31, 1848, by whom he had two children, one of whom, Mary A., married Amos Blanchard. Mr. Fay died Jan. 10, 1857, and his widow married Hiram H. Gage.

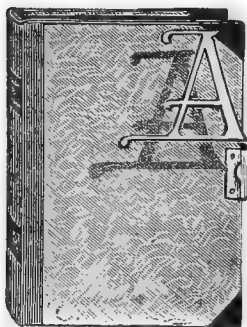
( 6 ) Adaline Fay married Abel Lord, and Betsey died young.

## CHAPTER XV.

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### BIOGRAPHICAL.

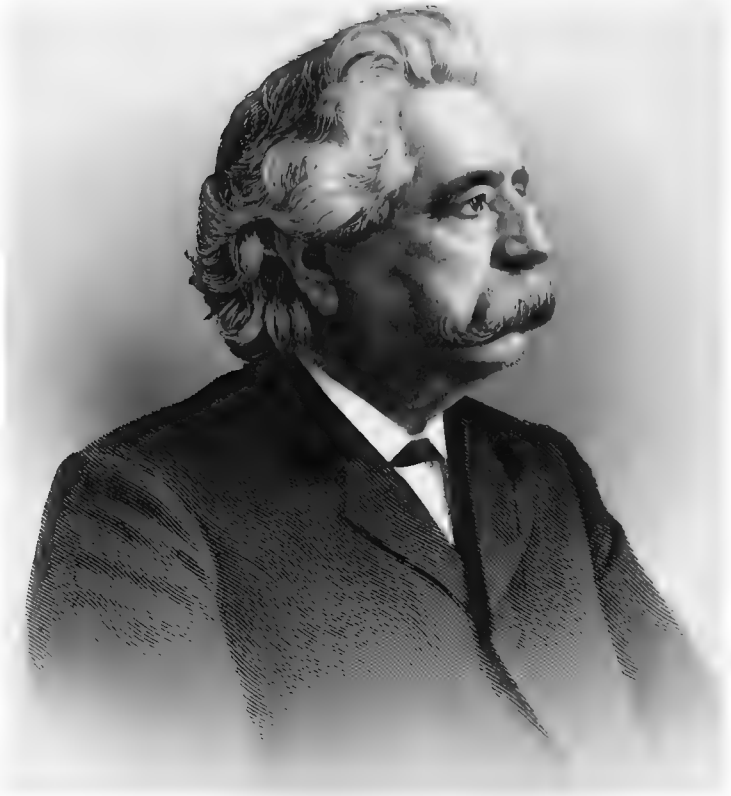
"There is no life of a man, faithfully recorded, but is a heroic poem of its sort, rhymed or unrhymed."



AMONG THE business men and manufacturers of Athol, who have during the last half century, laid the foundations for and conducted successful business enterprises, that in many instances are still continued and carried on by their sons or successors, and who, having accomplished their work and mission, have passed on to their reward, we may mention the names of John C. Hill, Capt. C. C. Bassett, Lyman W. Hapgood, Edwin Ellis, W. H. Amsden, Nathaniel Richardson, J. Sumner Parmenter, Frank C. Parmenter, D. A. Newton, Geo. T. Johnson, Daniel W. Houghton, Addison M. Sawyer, and many others. These, by their untiring industry and ability, have contributed in a large degree in making the Athol of to-day what it is, and have left examples worthy of emulation, and names







A. M. Sanger





that will stand high on the roll of Athol's honored business men through the coming years.

ADDISON M. SAWYER was born in Templeton, Aug. 14, 1827, a son of John and Lucy (Balcom) Sawyer. The family had for several generations been distinguished for its mechanical skill and ingenuity. The father, John Sawyer, was a farmer and mechanic of unusual ability. The sons attended the public schools of their native town, became familiar with labor in their early days, and were trained in habits of industry and frugality. Addison was employed by the American Rattan Co. on its organization, and becoming familiar with the machinery, his mechanical genius soon discovered where important improvements could be made, and he invented and perfected many contrivances of great value. One of these, the Tubular Spurred Cutter, invented by Mr. Sawyer, and patented in 1854, revolutionized the business. It was adopted by the Wakefield Rattan Co., and yielded the inventor a handsome revenue. From his boyhood, Mr. Sawyer had been an expert with the gun and rifle, and his familiarity with these led him to investigate the science of projectiles, which resulted in the "Sawyer Gun," and other ordnance materials, which were valuable to the government in the late war. The Sawyer canister shot was tested by the Government, and proved of such value that the inventor was awarded twenty-five thousand dollars. He was also the inventor of other valuable machines. One of his last investigations was the invention of a process of refining and giving the ripeness and qualities of age to distilled spirits, which attracted the attention of scientific men.

Mr. Sawyer became a resident of Athol about 1860, and soon after coming to town invested in real estate at the Highlands. He built the finest and most costly home in town, spending upwards of eighty thousand dollars upon the buildings and grounds. He purchased the Summit House, built a large shop on Main Street opposite the cemetery, was largely instrumental in the building of Music Hall, and active in the starting of the Athol National Bank. He was always interested in town affairs, and ready in town meeting to advocate whatever his judgment approved. A great friend and admirer of General Butler, he always supported him in his campaigns for Governor. He was a member of the Congregational Church, to which he was a liberal contributor. A man of commanding presence, he was affable, courteous and kind, and his social qualities, with his unbounded hospitality, made his beautiful home the centre for a host of warm friends. He married Harriet Elizabeth Blackmer, a daughter of Hosea Blackmer of Dana, Oct. 23, 1854. She died July 23, 1876, having borne him four children, none of whom are now living. He was married a second time to Mary E. Stevens, a daughter of Darwin H. and Harriet (Andrews) Stevens of Guilford, Vt. Mr. Sawyer died Jan. 23, 1890.

CAPT. CHARLES C. BASSETT, for thirty years one of Athol's most honored citizens and prominent business men, was born in Norton, Mass., Feb. 24, 1805. When a youth he moved with his family to Phillipston, where for many years he was in business with his father, Isaac Bassett, and others, including the late Col. Artemas Lee of



CAPT. CHARLES C. BASSETT.





Templeton. More business was done by this firm than by any other in this part of the state. They were the pioneers in the palm leaf hat business in this vicinity, and the second firm in the state to put out palm leaf to braid, their sales in this branch alone amounting to one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars in one year. Not only was Mr. Bassett an enterprising business man of Phillipston, but he was also prominent and active in town and church affairs. He was town clerk from 1834 to 1845, with the exception of three years, and was clerk of the parish during the memorable church controversy about the year 1830, when as clerk he had nearly a dozen actions brought against him in the courts, for refusing in a parish meeting, the votes of those who had once withdrawn from the society. He represented the town of Phillipston in the Legislature of 1851, and held various other offices and positions. He joined the Congregational church in 1832, and was for some time Superintendent of its Sunday School, and was also Captain of one of the largest military companies of the state. In 1856 he removed to Athol, where he continued to engage in mercantile business, and afterwards in manufacturing, being a member of the Millers River Manufacturing Co., and prominent in the establishment of the Athol Silk Co., of which he was the largest local stock-holder. He was one of the incorporators of the Millers River Bank in 1854, and was interested in the organization of the Athol Savings Bank and its vice president. He took an active interest in town affairs, served as town treasurer, and was often appointed on important committees. Interested in agriculture and horti-

culture, he was for several years the delegate to the State Board of Agriculture from the Worcester Northwest Agricultural Society. He was one of the most prominent members of the Congregational Church, and served the church and Sunday School in the most important positions. In 1845 he married Miss Lucinda S. Jones of Phillipston. They had two children, Charles H., who has been for many years engaged in the drug business in Boston, and Helena, who died of consumption in 1881. Mr. Bassett was one of the most kind and genial of men, jovial and cordial, and one of the most respected and honored men of the town.

JOHN C. HILL was born in North Orange, March 2d, 1816. He came to Athol when a boy, and was adopted by the late Abijah Hill, who was for a long time Deputy Sheriff, and grew to manhood in his family. Early in life he showed promise of unusual business ability, and started out for himself in the tinware and foundry business, which he built up to large proportions, his tin carts traversing the whole western section of the state. His first foundry was located on South Main Street, in rear of the house formerly the residence of W. L. Hill, and later he built a larger one near Canal Street, which he operated himself or leased to others for many years. He also started the manufacture of pails in the "old White mill," and before the building of the Vermont & Mass. R. R., was engaged in teaming merchandise and supplies from Boston, also coal and sand from Montague. When the building of a railroad from Fitchburg to Brattleboro was first agitated, he rendered timely and valuable assistance to the project,



JOHN C. HILL.



foreseeing the great advantage it would be to Athol, and in him the late Alvah Crocker found a most efficient co-laborer in pushing the enterprise to completion. He was also equally as earnest in favor of the building of the Athol and Enfield railroad, and advocated the town's assistance in that enterprise in the face of much opposition. He was a director of this road until it was merged into the Springfield, Athol and Northeastern. In 1859 he became interested in the manufacture of woollen cloth, satinets and horse blankets, and was the pioneer of that industry in this section; the firm of Johnson, Hill & Co. was organized, Mr. Geo. T. Johnson moving from North Dana to Athol to engage in the business. In 1863, the business was enlarged, and became the Millers River Manufacturing Company, now one of the flourishing business concerns of the town. In 1873, Mr. Hill retired from the business, and devoted his time to mills that he had at Eagleville, Fryville, Otter River and in New Hampshire. He was also one of the organizers and directors of the Athol Machine Co. Scarcely any enterprise was started in town for nearly forty years, from 1840, but had his active co-operation. Among others was the organization of the Millers River National Bank, of which he was one of the founders, and a director for twenty-six years. He was also one of the incorporators of the Athol Savings Bank, organized in 1867, of which he was a trustee at the time of his death. From 1865 to 1875, he was the largest real estate owner and tax payer in Athol. He never held any town or political office, but always took an active interest in town affairs, and was a prominent figure in the exciting town

meetings, for which Athol has been noted, speaking with earnestness in favor of what he believed for the best interests of the town. He married Dolly Smith, a descendant of one of the first settlers of the town in November, 1837. They had five children, a boy who died in infancy, Nettie, who died in 1863, at the age of 21 years, and three who are now living, Clara, Abijah and Wells L. Mrs. Hill died Oct. 9, 1889, and Mr. Hill March 11, 1890.

DANIEL APPLETON NEWTON was born in Templeton, March 25, 1833, the youngest of six children of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Newton, he being the only son. In early life he was clerk in the store of Col. Lee at Templeton. He first came to Athol as clerk for Lee & Bassett, and subsequently in connection with Roland T. Oakes, he bought out the firm, and the Oakes & Newton store for several years did a prosperous business where Starr Hall block now stands. Later, Mr. Newton bought Col. Lee's business in Templeton, and operated it a few years, leaving that to become the manager of the Otter River Woolen Mill in Templeton. In 1869 he went to Chicago as agent of the Athol Machine Co., and at the same time established an office in New York. He conducted these agencies until about 1873, when he returned to Athol and connected himself with the home management of the Machine Co. At the time of his death he was the general manager and treasurer of the Company. He was one of the most prominent members of the Second Unitarian Church, and was treasurer of the Society from its first organization. Although an aggressive and determined fighter in politics and town affairs, he had a never failing fund of cheerful-



DANIEL A. NEWTON.









JOSEPH B. CARDANY.

ness and good humor, and in all his business dealings was honorable, systematic, courteous and hopeful. He married Miss Kate Newhall, a daughter of one of Athol's old time business men, Oct. 31, 1877. They had three children. Mr. Newton died May 19, 1889.

JOSEPH B. CARDANY was born in Rouses Point, N. Y., April 6, 1829, and at an early age moved to Royalston, Mass., where he learned the cabinet makers trade, and remained seven years. He came to Athol in 1858, and engaged in the furniture business in a portion of Richardson's machine shop, in company with Charles Frye, and subsequently carried on a large business on Exchange Street, at one time under the firm name of Cardany & Spooner. He had finishing shops on South Street, and did a wholesale business. Mr. Cardany was a large owner in the Athol Gas Co., and was its superintendent for several years, as he was also of the Athol Water Co. During the last few years of his life, his attention was given exclusively to his furniture, crockery and undertaking business, which was the largest in this section of the state. He was pre-eminently a business man, and cared nothing for public office. He was an active member of the Second Unitarian Society, and one of its executive committee, also a member of Tully Lodge of Odd Fellows. He married for his first wife a Miss Holman of Royalston, by whom he had one child, who died in infancy. In 1862 he married Miss Sarah Lamb, daughter of James Lamb of Athol, by whom he had two daughters, only one of whom is now living, Mrs. T. S. Mann of Orange. He died June 16, 1889.

CEPHAS L. SAWYER was born in Northfield, Mass., Aug.

1837, and his early life was passed in his native town. At the age of twenty-one, he went to Greenfield, where he was engaged as a cracker dealer, buying his goods at the bakery, and selling them out in that and neighboring towns. He continued in that business for two or three years. He married Miss Ellen Wood, only daughter of Mr. S. N. Wood, of Williamsburg, in January 1861. Mr. Sawyer, then in company with his father-in-law, purchased the bakery business in Greenfield, which they carried on for three or four years, under the firm name of Wood & Sawyer, when they sold out and came to Athol in June, 1867, and purchased the bakery business at the corner of Main and School Streets. They made extensive improvements here, and increased the business until the annual sales amounted to nearly forty thousand dollars, and the products of their shop were sold throughout the towns of Vermont, New Hampshire and Western Massachusetts. In April, 1879, Mr. Wood retired from the business, and Mr. Sawyer continued it alone until his death. While residing in Greenfield, he joined the Baptist Church, and on his removal to Athol took a letter to the Baptist church of this town. He was one of the most prominent and loved members of the church, ever ready with his means and influence to aid the cause of the church, and was for eight years Superintendent of the Sunday School. He was also a prominent Mason, and at the time of his death was Eminent Commander of Athol Commandery Knights Templars. He was especially interested in the temperance cause, in which he took an active part, and was ever ready with cheering words and an open purse to assist those who



CEPHAS L. SAWYER.



were unfortunate or in trouble. He had one daughter, May E. Sawyer, who married William E. Mayo of Warwick. Mr. Sawyer died Aug. 14, 1880.

J. SUMNER PARMENTER, son of Joseph Parmenter, was born in Petersham May 7, 1827. At the age of twelve years he became clerk for Wetherell & Hamilton, and two years after came to Athol, where he obtained a situation with Thorpe & Simonds, and also attended school. In 1848, he became one of the firm of Thorpe & Parmenter, which was continued to 1865, when he entered into partnership with his brother Frank C., and the firm was J. S. and F. C. Parmenter, until 1870, when his brother retired, and his son Frank S. took his place for four years, when Mr. Parmenter retired from mercantile business. He was prominently identified with the religious, political, financial and business interests of Athol, and when he died, Dec. 7, 1881, in the prime of manhood, and in the midst of a successful business career, the community felt that it had lost one of its strong men and most valued citizens. He was a member of the Legislature in 1878, and at the time of his death was vice president of the Athol Savings Bank, clerk of the Millers River Manufacturing Co., treasurer of the Athol Library Association, trustee of the Upham Machine Co., and had been town clerk nearly seven years. He was one of the leading members of the Congregational Church, which he served as deacon, and was also superintendent of its Sunday School. He married Caroline B. Baker of Troy, N. H., June 7, 1848, and had two children, Frank S. and William H.

FRANK C. PARMENTER was born in Petersham, Oct. 17, 1830. When fifteen years of age he went to work for Bassett, Chickering & Co. in Athol, and later for Thorpe & Parmenter. He was with these two firms for six and a half years, when he returned to Petersham and opened a store, where he carried on business for ten years, after which he came back to Athol, and was in company with Lewis Thorpe, at the Centre for two years, and with his brother, J. Sumner Parmenter, at the Village five years. After being out of business for a time, he formed a partnership with Albert R. Tower in the dry goods business in 1870, and the firm of Parmenter & Tower did a flourishing business for twenty-two years, when Mr. Parmenter retired from the firm. He joined the Congregational Church in Petersham in 1858, and after locating in Athol, became a member of the Congregational Church of this town, of which he was for many years one of the most prominent members, being one of its deacons, collector and treasurer, and superintendent of the Sunday School. He was connected with nearly all of the temperance organizations of the town, in which he took an active part. He was a director of the Athol National bank, and auditor of the town for two years, and was interested in several of the manufacturing companies in town. He was married Oct. 17, 1852, to Elizabeth J. Goodnough of Athol. They had one daughter, Stella, who is the wife of Hon. S. P. Smith. Mr. Parmenter died Oct. 28, 1893.

EDWIN ELLIS was born in North Orange on the old Ellis homestead Jan. 10, 1822. He was a son of Seth Ellis,





EDWIN ELLIS.



J. SUMNER PARMENTER.



FRANK C. PARMENTER.







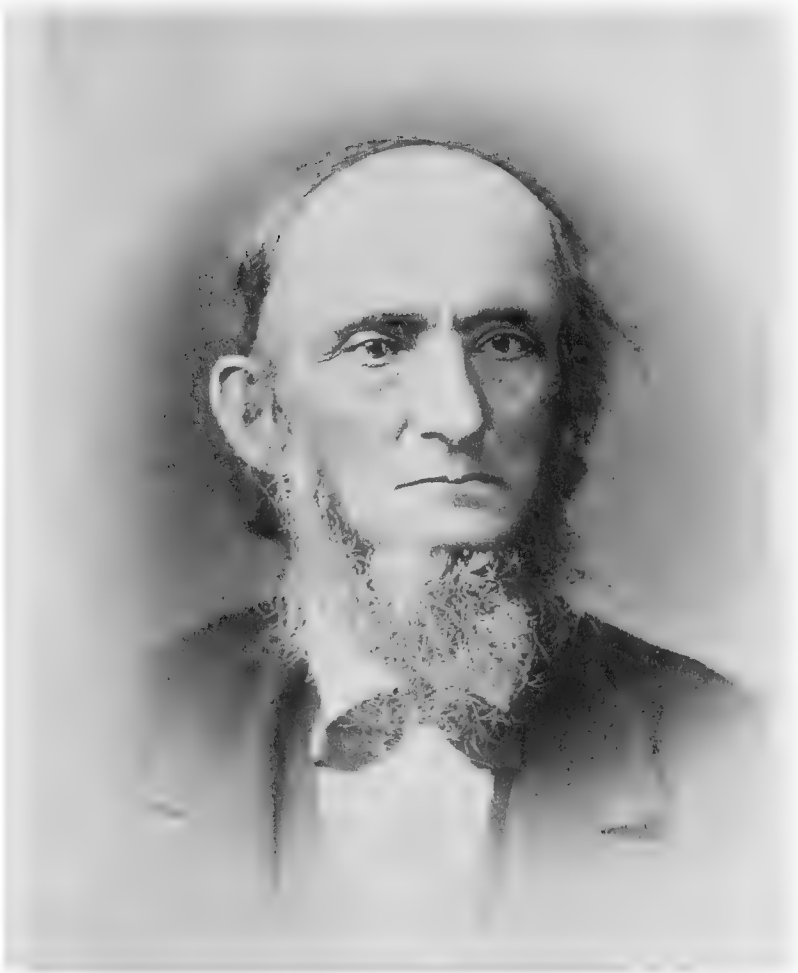
LYMAN W. HAPGOOD.

who had a family of ten children. Seth was a descendant of Samuel Ellis, one of the first settlers of Cape Cod, and whose descendants were quite prominent among the early settlers of Sandwich, Yarmouth and Harwich. Mr. Ellis came to Athol and he soon commenced the manufacture of sash and blinds in 1847, at the site on Water street, where he continued the business until his death. In his early business career he had a partner, his brother-in-law, John Wood, who, after retiring from the partnership, continued in the employ of Mr. Ellis, until the latter's death. In 1888, he admitted to partnership his son, Edwin W. Ellis, and the firm was known as Edwin Ellis & Son. Mr. Ellis was not only successful in building up a flourishing business, but he also had the confidence of his fellow citizens who elected him to positions of trust and honor. He served on the board of selectmen, was a member of the school committee, and was elected as representative to the Legislature in 1875. Prominently identified with the Congregational church, he was one of its deacons and superintendent of the Sunday School. Honorable in all his business affairs, sound and prudent as an adviser, a social and cordial friend, he was a true man in every relation. He married Lois L. Wood of North Orange, Jan. 10, 1846, by whom he had three children, Adele C., wife of Frank S. Parmenter, Orrin P. and Edwin W. He died July 9, 1888.

LYMAN WILDER HAPGOOD was born in Barre, Mass., Nov. 27, 1811, where he was educated in the public schools, and learned the trade of a wheelwright. He came

to Athol in 1838, and engaged in the wheelwright business with his brother Asa, in the building now occupied by Newton & Call, grocers. He commenced the manufacture of match splints in company with Cyrus Stockwell, on the Petersham road, and also carried on the business where the L. Morse & Sons shops are now located, and was in company with A. D. Horr, under the firm name of Horr, Hapgood & Co., having an office in Boston. In 1844 he removed his business to where the present match shops are located, and built up one of the most flourishing industries of the town, which was continued after his death by his son and son-in-law, under the firm name of Hapgood & Smith, and which was purchased by the Diamond Match Co. in 1882. He had natural talents as a leader, and exerted a strong influence in church, political and town affairs. He was for many years connected with the Fire Department as Chief Engineer, served as school committee seven years, was active in the establishment of both local banks, both of which he served as director, and also held other positions of trust and responsibility for the town. He was the leader of the Free Soil party in Athol, and was elected as delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1853. He was also prominent in the old First Unitarian Church, of which he was the clerk for many years, and was also superintendent of the Sunday School for twenty years. He married Eliza J. Finney, April 18, 1839, and had two children, Sarah H., who married Almon Smith, and Herbert L. He died Oct. 18, 1874.

NATHANIEL RICHARDSON was born in Swanzey, N. H., •



NATHANIEL RICHARDSON.





Dec. 31, 1804. He was the second son of a family of ten children, and his early life until twenty-one years of age was spent on the farm and in the blacksmith shop of his father. He came to Athol and engaged in work as a machinist for the Athol Manufacturing Co., April 25, 1826. In 1835 he bought the house on Main street, which was his home for nearly half a century, and in June, 1838, he purchased the machine shop, now occupied by C. F. Richardson & Son, where with his brother Luna, or alone, he carried on a most successful business for many years. He was prominent in town and public affairs, was representative to the Legislature in 1847 and 1860, a member of the board of selectmen for nine years, town treasurer from 1865 to 1875, and was for thirty-one years a Justice of the Peace, having received his first appointment in 1852. In 1854 he was elected a director of the Millers River Bank, and filled that office to the time of his death, and was also a trustee of the Athol Savings Bank from the time of its organization. In 1827 he united with the Free Masons, in which he always took an active and prominent part, and at the time of his death was the oldest Mason in town. In all of his relations he was a true and honorable man. He married Emeline Young, daughter of Reuben Young, a descendant of Robert Young, who was one of the early settlers of Athol, Oct. 31, 1830. They had two children, George H. and Charles F. Mr. Richardson died Feb. 16, 1883.

GEORGE T. JOHNSON, who for more than thirty years was one of the leading business men and citizens of Athol,

was born in Springfield, Mass., Feb. 11, 1823. At the age of seventeen years he went to Boston as clerk in a grocery store, where he remained five years, when he went to Dana, Mass., where he was employed for some time as a clerk, and then engaged in business in the company of Lindsey & Johnson, in a general country store. In 1860 he removed to Athol, and engaged in the satinet business with the late John C. Hill and Charles C. Bassett, the firm being known as Johnson, Hill & Co., of which Mr. Johnson was president. This firm was soon merged in the Millers River Manufacturing Co., which was incorporated in 1863, with a capital of forty thousand dollars, and the Kendall mill water power was purchased, and a large factory built. Mr. Hill soon retired from the company, which was continued by Messrs. Johnson and Bassett, until the latter's death in 1886, when Mr. Johnson with his son, W. G. Johnson, took the management of the business, and continued it until his death. He was active and public spirited, taking an interest in nearly all of the new enterprises that were started in town during his residence in it. He was one of the organizers of the Athol Machine Co., of which he was the president and treasurer at the time of his death, was active in the establishment of the Athol Silk Co., the Citizens' Building Co., and the Upham Machine Co. He was one of the first directors of the Millers River Bank, which position he held at the time of his death, was a trustee of the Athol Savings Bank for many years and its vice president. He was one of the charter members of Tully Lodge of Odd Fellows, and the treas-





WASHINGTON H. AMSDEN.

urer of the lodge from its organization until his death. He was one of the leading members of the Second Unitarian church from its organization, and a constant attendant at its services, where he was ever ready to extend a hearty greeting and handshake to all as they entered the house of worship. He married Eunice Fales in March, 1845. They had three children, one of whom died in infancy, and William G. and Kate, who married Dr. James Oliver.

WASHINGTON H. AMSDEN was born in Dana, April 19, 1825, and came to Athol about 1844. Some time afterwards he purchased a factory, located where the L. Morse & Sons shops now are, and engaged in the sash and blind business with his brother Festus. His factory was burned March 4, 1864, and he purchased the Kennebunk property, November 19, 1865, where he continued in business until his death, with the exception of a year and a half in 1879 and 1880. He built up one of the flourishing industries of the town, and his reputation for honor and integrity as a business man was above reproach. In town affairs his judgment was sound and keen, and he was always outspoken and forceful in the expression of his views. He exerted a strong influence in the community, and served the town as selectman, assessor and supervisor of roads for several years. He also represented this district in the Legislature of 1885, was one of the first directors of the Athol National Bank, a trustee of the Athol Savings Bank and Worcester Northwest Agricultural Society, and a liberal supporter of the First Unitarian church. He

married Chloe Ann Gates of Wendell Nov. 23d, 1846. They had four sons and one daughter: Otho F. and William H., who succeeded their father in business, Henry, who is a merchant in Shelburne Falls, Festus G., who has been engaged in business in Athol, and Anna, who married Sumner L. Morse, William H. died Oct. 1, 1891. Mr. Amsden died Nov. 3, 1886.

PARDON D. HOLBROOK was born in Townsend, Windham County, Vt., March 6, 1842. His parents died when he was fifteen years of age. His education was received in the public schools of his native town and at Leland Grey Seminary in East Townsend. In the war of the Rebellion he enlisted in the 16th Vermont Regiment, and served honorably for nine months, being severely wounded in the battle of Gettysburg, from the effects of which he did not recover for a long time. After his return from the army he engaged in the livery business in Townsend, and also purchased a hotel, which he managed in connection with his livery business for several years. During his residence in Townsend he was appointed a Deputy Sheriff of Windham County, which position he held for two years. He married Theodosia M. Twitchell of Townsend, Vt., May 6, 1868. Mr. Holbrook came to Athol in 1872, and in company with F. F. Twitchell and John D. Holbrook, engaged in the clothing and dry goods business in Music Hall block in the Upper Village. After three years he sold out to his partner and went back to Townsend, where he engaged in farming for two years, when he returned to Athol and engaged in the grocery business with Joseph W. White, the firm being known as Holbrook & White.



PARDON D. HOLBROOK.









DANIEL W. HOUGHTON.

He continued in this business until his death April 19, 1886. He was a prominent member of the Baptist church.

DANIEL W. HOUGHTON was born in Wendell, now Sunapee, N. H., in 1820. He removed to Lunenburg, Mass., when four years of age with his parents, and there lived with them until his seventeenth year, when he went to Boston, where he engaged in business for the next ten years. He was afterwards in business in Clinton, from whence he removed to Millington in New Salem in 1857, and to Athol in 1863. While in Athol he was engaged in the foundry business, which then was one of the flourishing industries of the town. He was also connected with the Athol Machine Company from its organization, and was one of its directors. He was one of the engineers of the Fire Department at the time of the memorable steamer contest. While living in Boston Mr. Houghton united with the Bennett Street Methodist church, and during his whole life in Athol he was one of the strong pillars of the Methodist church, being a member of the official board and superintendent of the Sunday School. The Athol Transcript at the time of his death referred to him as follows: "The death of Mr. Houghton removes from our community one of the most honorable and upright men who have ever contributed to its moral and spiritual welfare. He was a just and high minded man, with whom it was a pleasure to deal." He devoted much of his time to the cause of temperance, and was very efficient and successful in that field of work, entering into it with his characteristic wisdom and earnestness. No matter what

his surroundings, his every desire and act was guided by the purest principles." About the time that he came to Athol, Mr. Houghton married Sarah H. Hale of New Salem, Nov. 26, 1863. They had one child, Effie Houghton. He died Dec. 16, 1879.

J. WESLEY GOODMAN, was born in North Dana, Sept. 17, 1839, a son of the late Dr. Allen Goodman, who with Warren Hale established the business of piano and billiard table leg manufacturing about 1845. In 1861 J. Wesley was admitted as a partner in the firm which was then Warren Hale & Co., and in 1876 he purchased the entire business, to which he added the construction of billiard table frames and all the wood work connected with the tables. He continued this business at North Dana until 1880 when he moved to Athol and occupied the building known as the Upham shop with his business. His billiard tables obtained a high reputation and the industry was one of the largest of the kind in the country. His oldest sons were associated with him in the business for several years before his death. While living in North Dana he was actively interested in the building of the Athol and Enfield railroad and was one of the directors of the company. He was a member of Athol Commandery of Knights Templars and a prominent Mason. Of a social and genial nature he had a large circle of friends, and was one of the organizers of the Poquaig Club. He married Julia A. Amsden of Dana, Oct. 1, 1861. They had four children, Frank A., Fred L., Will A. and Minnie. Mr. Goodman died May 15, 1893.





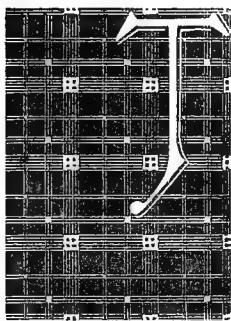
THEODORE JONES.

## CHAPTER XVI.

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### BIOGRAPHICAL—CONTINUED.

“There is no heroic poem in the world, but is at bottom a biography, the life of a man.”



THEODORE JONES was born in Templeton, Mass. His early mercantile experience was obtained in the employ of John Chandler, who had stores in Petersham, Athol and other places.

Mr. Jones at one time had the supervision of all of these stores. He came to Athol and was in partnership with Mr. Chandler for a number of years, when he bought out the business, and was in trade in Athol for forty years, his store occupying the site of the present Union block at Athol Centre. He was prominent in the business, social, public and church life of his day, and was one of the staunch men of the town, whose influence was felt in a marked degree, and whose judgment was sought in all public matters. He was courtly in his manners, of innate courtesy, and manifested a kindly interest in all.

He served as a Savings Bank for the young people who wished to save their pennies, and when a boy or girl carried a dollar to him, he gave his note for the amount with interest. He served the town as selectman, was town clerk from 1818 to 1829 inclusive, town treasurer from 1840 to 1850, and represented the town in the Legislatures of 1840, 1843 and 1845, and was a deacon of the First Unitarian church for many years. He married Marcia Estabrook, daughter of Rev. Joseph Estabrook, the second minister of Athol, Aug. 29, 1819. They had eight children : Joseph E., Theodore, Frederick, Charles, Nathaniel, Benjamin, Jerome, Ellen and Marcia. Of these, Theodore and Charles are dead, Joseph F. resides in Newton, Frederick in San Francisco, Nathaniel in Chicago, Jerome is head of the extensive crockery establishment of Jones, McDuffee & Stratton in Boston, and Ellen and Marcia reside in Athol at the old homestead. Mr. Jones died Jan. 5, 1863.

FREDERICK JONES was born Aug. 31, 1803, at Athol, a son of Prescott and Jane (Moore) Jones, and was a lineal descendant of Lewis Jones, who came from England and settled in this country, at Roxbury, about 1635 to 1640. His descendants settled at Weston, Templeton, Athol and other places. The family is of Welsh origin, and its members have always been practical people, distinguished for acts and deeds, rather than for theories and sentiments ; sensible, God-fearing and well to do people. Frederick Jones appears to have inherited in a marked degree the characteristics of the family. He was eminently practical in his purposes, a close calculator, cautious and deliberate



in forecasting and planning: enterprising, energetic and persistent in the execution of his plans, a man of excellent judgment and uniformly successful. At an early age he entered the tannery of his father at Athol, as an apprentice, and served the regular time at that branch of industry. In 1825 his father retired from business, and Frederick, in connection with his brother, Prescott, Jr., succeeded to it. They operated it together for a year or two, when the last named removed from Athol to Boston, where he engaged in business as a dealer in hides and leather, and at which place he died in 1839.

In 1831 Frederick Jones added to his business of tanning, that of manufacturing heavy shoes and brogans. Some lighter shoes had been made previously in Athol, but only in a small way. Mr. Jones started the industry upon a larger plan, and four years afterwards the manufacture was changed from shoes to boots, and the business finally became one of the important industries of the town. The tannery and the boot factory were operated by him and his partners until about 1872. In 1833 he enlarged his business operations, by embarking in business in Boston as a dealer in boots, shoes and leather, being associated with his cousin, Nahum Jones, under the firm name of F. and N. Jones. He continued to reside in Athol, and personally conducted operations at the tannery and boot factory until 1838, when he removed his residence permanently to Boston. The firm of F. and N. Jones was dissolved in 1848, and Frederick Jones continued alone until 1853, when Francis F. Emery became associated with Mr.

Jones as partner, the firm being Frederick Jones & Co., which was continued until 1882, when Mr. Jones retired permanently, and the business was continued by Mr. Emery. The firm of Frederick Jones & Co. manufactured and sold all kinds of heavy boots and shoes, selling only to the wholesale and jobbing trade, the manufactured product aggregating from five hundred thousand to one million pairs per year. The firm had factories at Ashland, Milford, Athol, South Braintree, Brockton and Plymouth, Mass., and at Dover, Farmington and Alton, N. H.

Mr. Jones was in active business in the boot and shoe trade for fifty-seven years, and no man in the guild was more highly respected. His business life was an example of gentleness, purity and uprightness. He was married December 1, 1831, to Maria Sweetzer, daughter of Samuel and Hannah (Moore) Sweetzer of Athol. They had four children. The oldest, Caroline Sweetzer, born at Athol Oct. 28, 1835, married Francis F. Emery, Sept. 18, 1855, and died at Boston, Oct. 1, 1890. Jane Maria, born at Athol, May 28, 1837, was unmarried, and died at Boston, March 16, 1858. Two sons died in infancy. Mr. Jones died at Boston, June 7, 1887. He did not confine his usefulness to his business, but gave the benefit of his counsel and active cooperation to various organizations. He was a life member of the New England Historical Society, the Museum of Fine Arts, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the Young Men's Christian Association, and other kindred societies to which he contributed liberally. He endowed the Andover Theo-





GEORGE SPRAGUE.

logical Seminary with a professorship of elocution known as the Jones Professorship, and also endowed the Young Woman's Christian Association of Boston with a fund known as the Frederick Jones fund.

GEORGE SPRAGUE, son of Josiah Sprague, was born in 1796. He was a direct descendant of Edward Sprague of Upway, Dorset County, England. The three sons of Edward Sprague emigrated to Charlestown, in this state, in 1628. Of these, William Sprague, who went to Hingham in 1636, is the ancestor of George. He was granted a tract of land in Hingham that year, and soon took a prominent position in the management of the town's affairs, holding the offices of selectman and constable. One Anthony Sprague of this family, who was an invalid, is said to have read the Bible through once a month for thirty years. George was the third child in a family of nine, and from an early age was deeply interested in mechanics. On becoming of age he engaged at once in business, which was the manufacture of shingles by hand. From this he turned his attention to the making of sleighs and wagons, which he sold himself, his trade extending as far as Canada. After this he engaged in cabinet making, and about 1830, came to the lower village of Athol, then known as the "factory village," where he first did the mechanical work for the cotton factory. He also manufactured various kinds of machinery, and soon commenced a hardware business, which he gradually enlarged and carried on until 1862, when he sold it to his son Lucius K. On June 1, 1826, he married Nancy Knight of Phillipston. They had

six children : George Lorenzo, Martha Angeline, Leander Milton, who are dead, and Lucius Knight, Edwin Loring and Henry Harrison, now living in Boston. Mr. Sprague died June 25, 1870.

JONATHAN STRATTON, second son of Joseph Stratton, was born in Athol Oct. 5, 1795. His grandfather, Elias Stratton, came from England and settled in Sherborn, Mass., and came to Athol about 1770, where he purchased a large tract of land in the south part of the town, to which he gave the name of New Sherborn, after the town from which he came, a name which that district has borne to the present time. Elias had five sons and two daughters. As the sons grew to the age of maturity, each one of them was given a farm from this tract and settled around their father. Four of the sons lived on their farms until they died, and from these are descended most of the Strattons of Athol and vicinity.

Jonathan lived on his father's farm, the place now occupied by S. C. Perham. He was frequently called upon to settle estates, was appointed guardian of many children, and on many occasions was chosen as referee to settle disputes both in Athol and surrounding towns. He also did considerable town business, serving on the board of assessors, and on many important committees. He was a prominent member of the old First Church, and was chosen as deacon May 25, 1835, which office he held until his death. At the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the organization of the church, he was chairman of the committee of arrangements. He married Esther W. Fay.

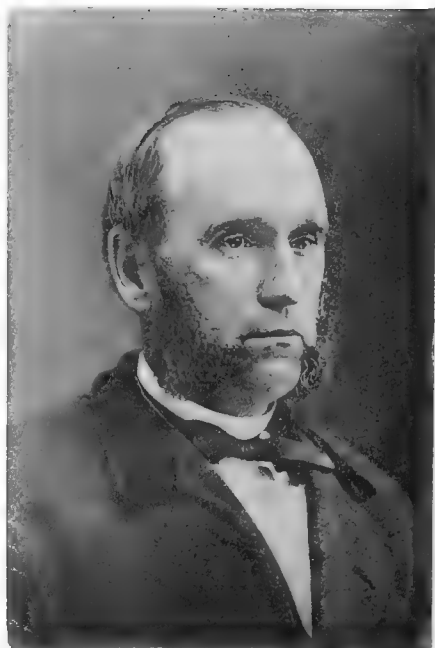


JONATHAN STRATTON.









ABNER G. STRATTON.

March 8, 1821, and they had six children: Eleanor, who married Amos T. Stratton, J. Henry, who lives in the upper village, Otis, who lived in San Jose, California, and Lucena, Winsor and J. Milton, who are dead. Mr. Stratton died Feb. 21, 1852.

ABNER GRAVES STRATTON was born Feb. 8, 1820, in the south part of Athol, his ancestors being among the early settlers of the town. He received his education in the district schools, and first embarked in the active duties of life as a farmer in that part of the town, now known as "Athol Street." He was engaged in farming for several years, and then associated himself with Asa W. Twitchell in the manufacture of palm leaf hats, occupying a building in the rear of the present Chronicle block. On retiring from this business he was for a short time landlord of the old Pequig House, after which he again associated himself with Mr. Twitchell in the livery stable and express business, at the place now occupied by C. W. Moore, on Exchange Street. This firm continued for a long time, doing a very successful business, which was carried on for some years after Mr. Twitchell's death by Mr. Stratton alone. In the early seventies he entered into partnership with Charles Adams in the retail boot and shoe business in the old Houghton block, and retiring from the business in 1876, was not again engaged in active business, with the exception of auctioneer, in which capacity he was in constant demand. He was chosen to the office of constable in 1842, and for a third of a century held various town offices continuously, having served the town as selectman, assessor,

overseer of the poor, constable, tax collector, treasurer, and many other minor offices, indeed, it is said that at one time he held every town office with the exception of town clerk. He was a member of the fire department for twenty-eight years, and for a time its chief engineer, and was tax collector nineteen years. He was active in the organization of the Worcester Northwest Agricultural and Mechanical Society, and up to the time of his death was a familiar figure as chief marshal at the annual fairs. He was a man of strong physical constitution, and his keen wit and Yankee genius are well remembered by the older inhabitants, who can tell many amusing incidents of his public and private life. He married Ophelia Barton of Athol July 7, 1842, and by her had two sons, Frederick A. and Solon. His wife died in 1875, and he was again married Jan. 5, 1876, to Mrs. Fanny Forrester of North Orange. Mr. Stratton died March 26, 1882.

WILLIAM H. GARFIELD was the second son of George and Pattie Garfield, who settled in Athol in 1814. William was born in Harvard Dec. 31, 1809. His boyhood from the time he was four years old was spent in Athol. At the age of nineteen years he left the paternal roof to go out into the world, and went on foot to Concord, Mass. to obtain work. He remained there two years, and went to Boston in 1831. He was the first one to introduce in Boston the New York daily papers, and was for four years one of the proprietors of the Boston Daily Times. He engaged in the coffee and spice business in 1856, in which he continued for nearly forty years, doing an extensive and



WILLIAM H. GARFIELD.







JONATHAN WHEELER.



successful business, and attending personally to his affairs every day when over eighty-two years of age. Mr. Garfield was twice married, his first wife being Sarah Teague of Portsmouth, N. H., whom he married in Boston, Dec. 2, 1839. Mrs. Garfield died April 18, 1879, and May 5, 1880, he married Mrs. Eliza A. Maine, formerly of Dorchester. Mr. Garfield died July 18, 1894.

JONATHAN WHEELER was born in Athol, March 30, 1790. His parents, Zacheus and Silence (Leland) Wheeler, came from Grafton, Mass., in February of the same year and settled on the north bank of Tully brook, near where Pine Dale is now situated. A log cabin was built for their home, a large tract of land was purchased, and a grist mill was erected upon the brook. Jonathan was the ninth of eleven children, and the youngest son. He attended the district school in Athol, going through the forests to school by means of blazes on the tree trunks. After he left school he worked for his father on the farm until twenty-one years of age. He then went into business for himself making trunks, and later sent lumber to Worcester and Boston. He soon was able to buy out his father's interest in the farm, mill and woodland, built up the little village called Wheelerville, now Pine Dale, and in 1834 began to manufacture pails, being one of the first to engage in that industry in the country. As his business increased he built larger mills, and also engaged in the manufacture of matches and of sash and blinds. He was very successful in his business life and accumulated considerable wealth, but reverses soon came, and he lost

a large amount of property by fire, which destroyed three large shops and thousands of dollars worth of stock. Owing to his heavy losses he was obliged to sell his property at Wheelerville, and with a portion of the proceeds purchased real estate in the village of Athol, which proved a good investment. He was a prominent member of the Baptist church, to which he contributed most liberally. He was married three times, and by his second wife, Mrs. Hannah Fisher, had seven children, of whom three are now living, Mr. Augustine Wheeler and Mrs. Hollon Farr of Athol, and Mrs. Bela Dexter of Rutland, Vt. He died July 19, 1872.

JOSEPH PROCTOR, son of Joseph Proctor, one of Athol's first lawyers, was born in Athol Feb. 20, 1823. He lived in town until 1855, being engaged in the manufacture of boxes and sash and blinds, in company with Charles Spooner at the Kennebunk mills, and also with Addison and Charles Horr, at the Ellis mill. Owing to failing health he went to the West in 1855, and was one of the pioneers in the state of Minnesota. He made his way on foot up the Mississippi river to St. Cloud, where he located and engaged in the hardware business in company with N. P. Clark of Hubbardston. He soon took his family there, and the hardware business was changed into that of general merchandise. This was one of the outposts of civilization, and was made a great distributing point for all the Northwest, controlling a large business from the Indians and the Red River country. The breaking out of the Indian war changed entirely the plans of Mr. Proctor's life.



JOSEPH PROCTOR.



Mrs. Proctor and the children were sent to the East, and in a year or two Mr. Proctor closed out his business and came back to Athol. After a while he went to Logansport, Ind., and engaged in the retail boot and shoe business, the firm being Proctor & Myers. About 1866 he commenced the manufacture of boots and shoes in Athol with a Mr. Albee, their shop being in Union block. This was continued for about three years, when he closed out the business, and after that was not engaged in any active business. He married Lucia Baldwin, a daughter of Jonathan Baldwin of Baldwinville, June 7, 1848. They had seven children, of whom two died young. Mary Josephine married Herbert L. Hapgood, Fred E. is engaged in business in Boston, Carro F. is bookkeeper at the Athol National Bank, Anna F. married Chas. Robbins of Orange, and Joseph L., is engaged in business in Chicago. Mr. Proctor died Aug 2, 1888.

MAJOR WARREN HERR was born in New Salem, July 17, 1803, a son of Warren Herr who was at one time treasurer of the town of Shutesbury. His education was obtained at New Salem Academy, of which he was the oldest graduate at the time of his death. His early life was devoted to farming, and he was honored by his fellow townsmen with many positions of trust and responsibility, representing New Salem in the Legislature of 1850, and also served the town as selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor for seven years in succession. Actively interested in the old militia he held the office of major, and was elected colonel, which office he declined. He removed

to Athol in 1857 and engaged in the grocery business with J. W. Hunt and J. F. Packard for a few years, and then gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. In 1826 he married Sally P. Sloan, a sister of Jonathan W. Sloan. She died in 1868 and in 1869 he married Mrs. Harriet Townsend. He had one child, George W. Horr. He was the oldest member of the Masonic fraternity in this section, having been made a Mason in Golden Rule Lodge, New Salem, in 1826. His life and character may be summed up in the following words: He was a just man, a true man, and a Christian. He died Feb. 14, 1890.

COL. WILSON ANDREWS was born in New Salem, April 3, 1804, the second son of Daniel Andrews of that town. Through all his more active life from early manhood until seventy years of age he was well known throughout Central Massachusetts in his business relations with the prominent and leading men of those days. He was appointed a deputy sherriff of Franklin County in the year 1832, which office he held for thirty years. In 1833 he was elected colonel in the militia of Massachusetts, his commission being signed by Gov. Levi Lincoln. For this office he was eminently adapted, his fine figure and bearing, with his commanding presence rendered him ever a pleasing picture to the eye as he commanded his regiment. After holding this position for some years, he was elected to the office of General. But with a young and growing family which rendered it necessary for him to devote himself unceasingly to his business, he felt it his duty to decline the office, and Col. James S. Whitney, father of Ex-Secretary



MAJOR WARREN HORR.



COL. WILSON ANDREWS.



JOSEPH F. PACKARD.



THOMAS D. BROOKS.





of the Navy Whitney was appointed in his place. He was a Mason for nearly forty years and actively interested in the order. He removed to Athol in 1871, which was ever after his home until his death June 5, 1886. He married Miss Samanthy O. Hastings of New Salem, Feb. 26, 1827. They had six children: Ophelia M., George W., Ellen S., Waldo H., Phœbe L. and Henry O. Ophelia married Dr. O. S. Lovejoy and resides in Haverhill, Mass., Phœbe L. married Henry M. Smith of Enfield, and Ellen S. and Henry O. reside in Athol.

JOSEPH FAIRBANKS PACKARD, oldest child of Winslow and Rachel (Freeman) Packard, was born in New Salem, Oct. 12, 1812. His early life was spent upon his father's farm. When about nineteen years of age he left the old homestead and went to Hadley, Mass., where he engaged in manufacturing brooms. It was there that he made the acquaintance of a most estimable young lady, Susanna Hinds Bowman, to whom he was united in marriage January 28, 1833. He soon after returned to his native town and to his former occupation of farming. Two children were born to him, Susan Sophia, February 3, 1834, and three years later, a son Joseph Henry. While a resident of New Salem he was for some years engaged with J. W. Hunt in driving cattle and sheep from Vermont to the Brighton market, and held many town and society offices, serving the town a number of years as selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor. In the spring of 1857, with his family, he removed to Athol and engaged in business with J. W. Hunt under the firm name of Hunt & Packard,

grocers, at the store now occupied by O. T. Brooks & Co. In the fall of 1866 this co-partnership was dissolved, Mr. Packard taking up his residence at Athol Centre, where he was engaged in the same business with Lewis H. Sawin and George H. Cooke. He continued this business until suffering from a paralytic shock he was obliged to give up work, and with his wife passed the remaining years of his life at the home of his daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Adolphus Bangs. Both Mr. and Mrs. Packard were for many years worthy members of the Congregational church. Mrs. Packard died February 2, 1883, and Mr. Packard April 30 of the same year.

THOMAS D. BROOKS, a son of Capt. Joel Brooks, was born in Petersham in May, 1811. He worked on his father's farm until twenty-four years of age, when he purchased a farm in the south part of Petersham, and after a year's experience on the farm moved to the Centre and commenced the manufacture of boots and shoes with Gardner Farrar. In 1841 he removed to Wendell, where he continued the same business, and also kept a store with his brother Otis. In that town he held the offices of selectman, overseer of the poor, town clerk and assessor, and was one of the trustees of New Salem Academy. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Franklin County in 1850. During the Rebellion he took an active part in helping the soldiers of Wendell, and was liberal in gifts of money and in assisting their families.

In 1874 he moved to Athol and purchased the Richard Moore farm on the old North Orange road where he re-

sided until his death. He was appointed Trial Justice June 25, 1873, which position he held about two years and a half, when he resigned. His last years were spent upon his pleasant farm, which his vigorous health enabled him to carry on almost to the time of his death. He married Miss Mary L. Sawtelle of Templeton. Their golden wedding was celebrated in a most pleasant and interesting manner at their hospitable home in 1886. They had three sons and one daughter, Oscar T., a grocer in Athol, Herbert of Brattleboro, Vt., Charles C., a grocer in Orange, and Eliza A., who married Marcus M. Stebbins of Erving. Mr. Brooks died March 23, 1893.

EDMUND J. GAGE was born in Wendell, Mass., Feb. 22, 1821. He lived there until nine years of age when he moved to New Salem, which was his home until eighteen years old. He came to Athol in 1841, and worked at the boot business for a few years, and then purchased a farm in the south part of the town, where he resided until about 1875, when he moved to the village and took charge of the new Silver Lake cemetery, of which he was the efficient superintendent until his death. He served the town as selectman and assessor in 1874, and always took an active interest in town affairs. He was a member of the Congregational church, and of Star Lodge of Masons. He married Mary H. Haven. They had two children, Charles F. and Monroe F. Mrs. Gage died April 16, 1885, and he was married a second time to Mrs. Maria F. Taft, Dec. 17, 1885. Mr. Gage died Oct. 9, 1893.

CALEB A. COOK, son of David Cook, was born in Roy-

alston, April 10, 1821. His early life was spent on his father's farm in West Royalston. He learned the watchmaker's trade when a young man, and did quite a business at his home repairing watches, clocks and jewelry. While a resident of Royalston he was interested in public affairs, and held various town offices. He came to Athol in May, 1864, and engaged in the grocery business with P. C. Tyler. He soon disposed of his interest in the grocery business and went into the jewelry business with S. W. Bliss, and after a few years went into the jewelry and watchmaker's business for himself, in which he continued until his health failed, and he sold out to S. N. Follansbee. He married Susan Herrick of Royalston, May 8, 1842. They had three children, a son who died at four years of age, Stella, who married Frank Hutchinson, and Saran A. the wife of Charles H. Tyler. His wife died Aug. 11, 1881, and he was married again March 30, 1882, to Jane L. Case. Mr. Cook died April 13, 1888.

ALEXANDER GRAY was born in Worcester, July 21, 1798, and came to Athol in 1805, when about seven years of age. His home was on the farm known as the Twichell place, near the Petersham Road, where he lived until about 1850, when he purchased another farm further north and lived about ten years, and then came to the village and bought a home on Central Street, where he lived until his death in 1876. He was a millwright by trade, and did much work in Athol and surrounding towns in building and repairing waterwheels, machinery, etc. He was interested in public affairs, and served the town as



EDMUND J. GAGE.



CALEB A. COOK.



ALEXANDER GRAY.



JAMES M. RICE.



selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor for several years. He married Elvira Bancroft of Wendell, Dec. 21, 1825. They had four sons and three daughters; two of the sons died young and the remaining two, Henry and Charles, are well known citizens of Athol.

JAMES M. RICE was born in Athol, Sept. 10, 1827. In early life he worked on a farm and drove an ox-team between Athol and Worcester, conveying produce, etc. About 1853 he went into business for himself, manufacturing stands and tables of various kinds. In 1857 he enlarged his business, and bought the saw mill of Mr. Dutton Wood, and also engaged in the lumber business with J. Milton Stratton. They built a new mill in place of the old one and continued the partnership for about a year, when Mr. Rice bought out his partner and continued the business alone. In 1867 he built an addition to his furniture factory. Soon after this his buildings were burned, but he immediately replaced his factory with a new one, with enlarged facilities for the business. In 1871 he again enlarged his business and built an addition to the factory, at the same time putting in steam power. He continued in the manufacture of furniture until his death, July 27, 1878. He was interested in town affairs, and served as selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor for three years, was enterprising in his business, and ever ready to help along anything that he believed was for the best interest of the town. The furniture business was continued after his death for several years by the firm of Rice, Barlow & Co. He married Clarissa Meacham of

New Salem, Nov. 18, 1846. They had four children, two of whom are now living, B. Madison and Harriet Ellen, wife of Charles F. Barlow.

JOSEPH F. DUNBAR was born in Orange, Feb. 4, 1819. In early life he worked for Jonathan Wheeler in the pail factory, at what is now known as Pine Dale, for seventeen years. About 1852 he came to the lower village in Athol and, in company with George Farr, engaged in the manufacture of matches, and also made pails. The firm was known as Farr & Dunbar, and their shops were located on Walnut Street, and where the box shop of Horace Hager now is. In about four or five years he sold out to Thorpe & Parmenter, after which he was engaged for some time in the lumber business. He was also a painter by trade, and did considerable work in that business. He was married Dec. 31, 1850, to Sarah E. Goodrich of Gill, Mass. They had three children, Jennie G., the wife of Charles F. Amsden, Joseph A., who is clerk at O. T. Brooks & Co's., and Sarah May. He died Jan. 3, 1892.

RUSSELL SMITH, a son of Luther and Abigail Smith, was born in Athol, Sept. 11, 1812. As soon as he became of age, he learned the trade of scythe making of the Sibley's, and when about twenty-five years old engaged in business for himself, purchasing the interest of Stephen Hammond in the scythe factory. He carried on this business successfully until a few years before his death, which took place Aug. 24, 1870. He was prominent in the fire department, and served as foreman of one of the old-time engine companies. He married Maria Kendall Aug. 21, 1893.





RUSSELL SMITH.



JOSEPH F. DUNBAR.



DEXTER ALDRICH.



DANIEL BIGELOW.



AZRO B. FOLSOM.



They had six children, four boys and two girls. The boys are all dead. The daughters are Mrs. Hattie Moore and Maria, the wife of Frank F. Morse.

AZRO B. FOLSOM was born in Worcester, Vt., in 1830. He removed to Athol about 1856, and soon after engaged in the jewelry business, which he continued until a few months before his death. He enlisted in Co. E, Fifty Third Regiment, and returned from the war in feeble health. Several years after his return from the war he united with the Methodist church, and was ever after one of its most prominent members, serving as trustee and superintendent of the Sunday School. He was also an earnest and active worker in the temperance cause, a man of upright character and honorable in his business relations. He died Aug. 29, 1882.

DANIEL BIGELOW was born in Athol, June 8, 1800, and was a descendant of one of the old families of the town. His grandfather, William Bigelow, came to Athol about 1746, and settled on a farm in the south part of the town. William Bigelow was one of the most prominent men of the town in his day, and was especially active during the opening days of the Revolution. He was one of the Committee of Correspondence, Delegate to the Provincial Congress and other gatherings, town clerk, the first Deputy Sheriff, and was chosen deacon of the old First Church in 1795. Daniel lived on the old ancestral farm most of his long life, but during his latter years lived on Pleasant Street. He became a Spiritualist in 1853, and ever after was a firm believer in those doctrines. He married

Hannah Stockwell April 29, 1827, and had three children, one who died in infancy, Elmer S. and Sarah. He was married a second time Aug. 22, 1872, to D. E. Grout. Mr. Bigelow died Jan. 2, 1894.

DEXTER ALDRICH was born in Pittsford, Vt., in April, 1822. His parents resided in various places, and moved to Athol from Royalston about 1834. He first worked at shoemaking, which he continued until about 1852, when he commenced selling goods for Horace Partridge, of Boston, travelling over the country and selling his goods at auction at the various cattle shows, musters and other occasions where large numbers were gathered. He was also engaged at different times as travelling salesman for several Boston firms. He was the first one to occupy a store in the Summit House block, where, in 1857, he opened a millinery and dry goods store which was one of the first of that kind, of importance in town, and where he did an extensive business. He was one of the projectors of Union block, and was also among the first of those who favored the introduction of gas and water into town. He also did an extensive business as an auctioneer. In company with T. H. Goodspeed he purchased Music Hall a short time before it was burned. For several years before his death he occupied a store in his block adjoining the Summit House. Mr. Aldrich died Dec. 19, 1882.

GILBERT SOUTHARD was born in Swanzy, N. H., Dec 7, 1820. He was left an orphan at the age of eight years, and his boyhood was one of hardship and work. When a young man he engaged in the manufacture of pails at



GILBERT SOUTHARD.



Fitzwilliam, N. H., and after a few years there removed to Athol, locating near South Athol, where the village which was built up by his business became known as Southardville. He continued the manufacture of pails at that place from 1848 to 1858, when he sold out his business and removed to Athol Centre, and bought the residence on Chestnut Street, which was his home until his death. He engaged in the grocery business at the store now occupied by Newton & Call, and sold out in a few years to S. E. and O. A. Fay. He then engaged in the stove and tinware business in the store where Samuel Lee is now located. After continuing this business a few years, he sold out and became interested in lumbering operations and other business. He became prominently identified with town affairs, and from 1875 was a member of the board of selectmen for nine years continuously, serving also most of that time as overseer of the poor and road commissioner. In 1891, he was elected overseer of the poor and served three years. He also for a number of years was elected to defend the town in law suits, and served on important committees for the town. He was a member of the Congregational church, and for many years the leader of its choir. He was married in 1842, to Miss Lucy A. Ellenwood of Athol. She died Nov. 13, 1895. They had five children, the only survivor of whom is Henry Southard, who now lives at the old homestead. Mr. Southard died Feb. 1, 1898.

JAMES W. HUNT was born in Prescott, June 1, 1821, and was one of eight children of Samuel and Polly

(Sloane) Hunt. His early life was spent upon the farm, and attending the district schools. He was for a number of years engaged in driving sheep and cattle from Vermont to Brighton market, in company with J. F. Packard. He was for many years one of the leading citizens of Prescott, serving the town as selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor for twelve years in succession. He came to Athol in November, 1856, and engaged in the grocery business with J. F. Packard and Warren Horr, where the store of O. T. Brooks & Co. is now located. He continued this business for fourteen years, and afterwards had a grocery store with his brother, Orrin, where the Chronicle block now is. Later he engaged in lumbering operations, alone or in connection with others. He was one of the purchasers of the Pinedale property and also of the Upham shop near the depot, and he also had much to do in the settlement of various estates. He was a prominent factor in town affairs, having been selectman for three years, assessor eight years, and was often chosen to act on important town committees. He was a charter member of the Poquaig Club. He was an attendant of and liberal contributor to the Baptist church, and sang in the church choir for many years. He married Sophia L. Haskins of Williamstown, May 23, 1844. She died Nov. 23, 1879, and Aug. 8, 1881, he married Miss Lizzie M. Rugg of Montague. Mr. Hunt died March 1, 1898.

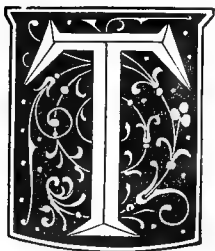


## CHAPTER XVII.

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### JOURNALISM.

"Here shall the Press the People's right maintain,  
Unawed by influence and unbribed by gain,  
Here patriot Truth her glorious precepts draw,  
Pledged to Religion, Liberty and Law."



THE FIRST venture in the field of journalism in Athol was that of Alonzo Rawson who, Dec. 18, 1827, issued the first number of his "Freedom's Sentinel." It was printed in folio form on a sheet eighteen by twenty-six inches wide, and contained twenty columns. The office was located at Athol Centre, and Mr. Rawson was the editor and publisher. His editorials were ably written, and he expressed his views upon the public questions of the day in a fearless manner. One of the principles which he stated he should be controlled by in the discharge of his editorial duties, was the following: "We shall never hesitate to reprobate, in the strongest terms, the injustice and horrors of slavery." This paper was continued for two years, the last issue

appearing Dec. 14, 1829, when Mr. Rawson gives his farewell as follows: "This week we issue the last number of Freedom's Sentinel, in Athol. It has been published two years, during which time the publisher has devoted his whole time and attention to its editorial and mechanical departments; and now he thinks he has an undoubted right to take a friendly leave of his patrons, and depart in peace, good spirits, and with empty pockets."

The next paper to be printed in Athol was the "White Flag," the first number of which was issued Sept. 7, 1850, M. H. Mandell, publisher, and D. J. Mandell, editor and proprietor. The object of this paper was briefly stated by Editor Mandell, who said, "The object of this journal is to promote the Christian Confederacy of Neighborhoods, Towns, States and Nations." Evidently the people did not appreciate the good intentions of this journal, for only a few numbers were issued in the second volume, when the publication suspended. From 1851 until Nov. 28, 1866, Athol was without a newspaper. "The Worcester West Chronicle" was established in Barre by R. Wm. Waterman, in January, 1866. During that year a movement was started in Athol for the establishing a local paper in town, and several meetings were held by the citizens to see what inducements could be offered, and arrangements made with some journalist to establish a weekly paper in town, devoted to its local interests and independent in politics. An invitation was extended to the proprietor of the "Worcester West Chronicle" to remove his plant from Barre to Athol. He accepted the offer

made him by the citizens' committee, and on Nov. 28, 1866, the first issue of the "Worcester West Chronicle" was published in Athol. It was printed on an Adams hand press, on a sheet twenty-four by thirty-six inches, folio form, with twenty-eight columns. In 1867 a power press was purchased. In 1870 the paper was enlarged to thirty-two columns, and on a sheet twenty-seven by forty-two inches. In January, 1875, it was again enlarged to forty-eight columns on a sheet thirty by forty-four inches quarto form, and, in 1881, a new cylinder press was purchased. In 1890, two more pages were added, the paper continuing to be a ten page weekly until September, 1895, when it was made a semi-weekly, being published on Thursdays and Saturdays. The paper has been from the start under the same business and editorial management.

R. WILLIAM WATERMAN, the editor and proprietor of the Chronicle, was born at St. John's, Newfoundland, Nov. 8, 1836, and came to Massachusetts with his mother when quite young. His parents were of American and English descent, his father, William Waterman, being a descendant of one of the oldest Massachusetts families of that name. His mother was Jane Ryland Burton, daughter of George Burton, a commissioned officer in the English army stationed at Newfoundland. His father died when he was an infant, and at the age of fourteen young Waterman commenced to learn the printing business, graduating in 1857 from the University office in Cambridge, after serving seven years apprenticeship. Notwithstanding he had gained as thorough a knowledge

of book printing as could be obtained in one of the best offices in the country, he gave a year's time soon after in another office in gaining a still further knowledge of type setting in foreign languages. At Andover, Mass., he did the composition on Henderson's Commentary of the Minor Prophets, in which he set six languages, all but one Oriental. Mr. Waterman was afterwards employed at the New England Type Foundry in Boston, and at the Riverside Press, Cambridge, as a type setter. While at the former place he worked upon "Uncle Tom's Cabin," in the manuscript of Harriet Beecher Stowe. At the University office, when a boy, he worked upon the manuscript of the first edition of Longfellow's "Hiawatha," carrying the proofs to the author daily. He was also employed at the Boston Stereotype Foundry, and at Wright & Potter's State Printers, going from the latter place to Barre, Mass., as foreman of the Barre Gazette office in 1864, and in January, 1866, established in that town the Worcester West Chronicle, which he removed to Athol in the fall of that year. He has been prominently identified with various Press Associations, having in 1870 been one of seven to organize, at Worcester, the Massachusetts Press Association, of which he has several times been elected vice-president, and it was through an invitation issued by him to newspaper publishers, that the Suburban Press Association was organized at Athol, in 1881, which has now become the "Suburban Press Association of New England," the largest and most useful in the United States, and of which he has been the

# The Worcester West Chronicle.

OPEN TO ALL INFLUENCED BY HOME

VOL. XXVIII

ATHOL, MASS. THURSDAY JANUARY 12, 1893

NO. 2

The Chronicle.

SEVEN DOLLARS

The Chronicle

R. WILLIAM WATERMAN

CHRONICLE BLDG.

ATHOL, MASS.

Entered as Second-Class Matter, May 1, 1879.

Post Office at Athol, Mass.,

Post Office No. 100.

Acceptance for mailing at

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for in Act of October 3, 1917.

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R. WILLIAM WATERMAN.



corresponding secretary to the present time. He was also one of the delegates sent to Cincinnati to organize the National Press Association in 1885 which has since held its sessions in the different states of the Union, most of which he has attended. He has had an extensive and varied experience in travelling in the United States and Mexico, having been in every state except Washington. Mr. Waterman was married Jan. 1, 1861, at Cambridge, Mass., to Henrietta Florence Taylor, daughter of Charles and Mary E. Taylor of that city. Miss Taylor was a native of North Reading, and was born at the old Whittredge homestead, which has been in the possession of her family from the Colonial days. Mr. and Mrs. Waterman have had three children, Charles A. J., who was born in Cambridge, and for a number of years was successfully engaged in the job printing business in Athol. He died in 1889, leaving a widow, one daughter and a son. George Burton, born in Barre, died in infancy, and Marshall B., born in Barre in 1866 is the only surviving child.

The first number of the "Athol Transcript" was issued Tuesday morning, Jan. 31, 1871, by E. F. Jones & Co. Mr. Jones was an able and popular printer, and had been for several years the foreman of the Chronicle office. Lucien Lord was the silent partner, and Dr. V. O. Taylor became the first editor. The changes that have taken place in the ownership and management of the paper are as follows: July 3, 1872, Col. George H. Hoyt bought Mr. Lord's interest, and the firm name of E. F. Jones & Co. was continued. Col. Hoyt doing the editorial work.

and giving the paper a strong political tinge. During the absence of Col. Hoyt in the Legislature the editorial duties were ably assumed by his sister, Mrs. Clare H. Burleigh. June 24, 1873, Lucien Lord, W. L. Hill and E. A. Smith purchased the entire business and plant and a new firm was organized, under the name of Smith, Hill & Co., with Mr. Smith as business manager, Mr. Hill as editor, and Mr. Lord as silent partner. This partnership continued until April, 1881, when Messrs Lord and Hill purchased Mr. Smith's interest, the former continuing as silent partner, and the latter as editor and business manager, the company name being the Athol Transcript Company. In September, 1893, W. H. Brock purchased Mr. Lord's interest, and succeeded him as silent partner, the firm name remaining as before.

DR. VERNON O. TAYLOR, the first editor of the Transcript, was born in Charlestown, Mass., Aug. 28, 1847. He was educated in the public schools of Charlestown, and Park Latin School of Boston, entered Tufts College, but left that institution in the sophomore year to enter the Harvard Medical School, from which he received the degree of M. D., in July, 1868. In September of that year he went to the west coast of Africa, and sojourned in the colony of Senegal until April, 1869. In September, 1869 he located in Athol, and commenced the practice of medicine. In addition to the duties of his profession he was local and special correspondent for the Springfield Republican, and was editor of the Transcript for nearly two years. He was married Sept. 15, 1871, to Sabra J.



Lord, eldest daughter of Ethan Lord, and they have one child, Lucien Edward Taylor, born June 24, 1872. In 1874 he removed to Lowell, Mass., to accept a position with the firm of Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., and in 1882 went to Providence, R. I., where he took the position of foreign correspondent, and had charge of the advertising department of the Rumford Chemical works. He resigned this position in July, 1889, to accept the special agency of the Winner Investment Co., of Kansas City, Mo. While in Athol Mr. Taylor was appointed a Justice of the Peace by Gov. Wm. B. Washburn, was regular correspondent of the Massachusetts State Board of Health, and also United States Examining Surgeon for Pensions. He took a great interest in Masonry, was Master of Star Lodge, and was active in securing the dispensation and charter for Athol Commandery of Knights Templars, of which he was the first Eminent Commander.

WELLS LOUET HILL, editor and part proprietor of the Athol Transcript, was born in Athol, July 25, 1850, the youngest child of the late John C. and Dolly (Smith) Hill. He is descended, on his mother's side, from Aaron Smith, one of the early settlers of the town, and a member of Athol's first board of selectmen. He was educated in the common schools of the town, until a severe attack of scarlet fever deprived him wholly of his hearing, at the age of twelve years. He then attended for four years the American School for the education of deaf people at Hartford, Conn., and entered the college at Washington, D. C., in 1868, from which he graduated with high honors

in 1872. A few years after he was honored by his alma mater with the degree of Master of Arts. His first newspaper work was done while in Washington, as correspondent, first for the Worcester West Chronicle, and later for the Athol Transcript. In June, 1873, Mr. Hill, in connection with Edgar A. Smith, purchased an interest in the Transcript, forming a partnership with Lucien Lord, one of the founders of the paper. Mr. Hill became the editor at that time, and has held the position ever since. In 1889, he was chosen by the directors of the American School for the deaf at Hartford, Conn., to represent that institution at a grand international congress of the deaf, held in Paris, France, called for the purpose of considering methods of educating the deaf. He was absent abroad about two months, and on his return made a lengthy report of his doings, which was printed and widely distributed at the instance of the directors of the Hartford school. Mr. Hill has frequently been called upon by his friends among the deaf to make addresses in their behalf, and he has officiated in this way in Boston, Hartford, Conn., Washington, D. C., New York, Worcester and other places. In May, 1875, he married Abbie M. Earle, a member of the well-known Hunt family. Four children have blessed this union, the oldest son, J. Clarence Hill, being local editor of the Transcript.

EDGAR A. SMITH, son of Abner Smith, was born in New Salem, Sept. 2, 1849. In 1865, he entered the employ of the Vermont & Massachusetts R. R. Co., as the first telegraph operator at the Athol station. He was afterwards



WELLS L. HILL



DR. VERNON O. TAYLOR.



EDGAR A. SMITH.



FRANK W. GOURLAY.



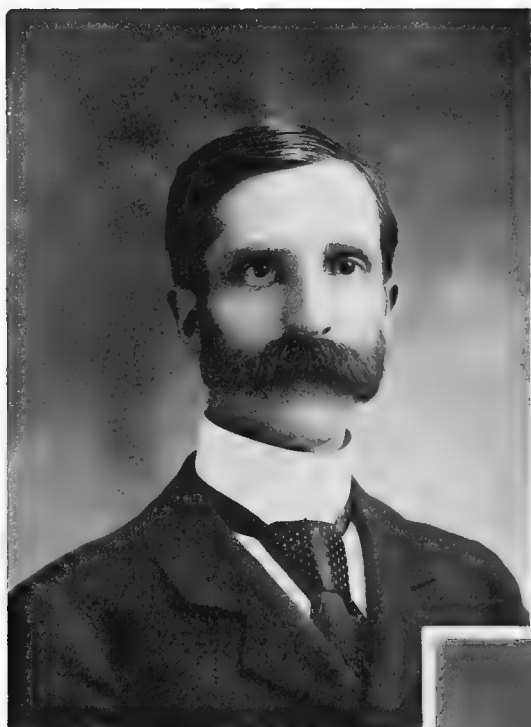
operator at Fitchburg, and in 1869 was appointed time-keeper and clerk in the master mechanics' office at Fitchburg, then general utility man on the trains, and private secretary to Otis T. Ruggles, superintendent of the Vermont and Massachusetts R. R. He then became train dispatcher on the Fitchburg road from Boston to North Adams, and in 1890 was made General Superintendent of Telegraph from Boston to Troy, and was empowered to organize and put in operating condition the entire telegraph system of the Fitchburg railroad between those places. In 1897, he was appointed Passenger Train Master, having general direction of the whole passenger equipment. Mr. Smith was for nearly eight years one of the owners of the Athol Transcript, having in June, 1873, with Lucien Lord and W. L. Hill, purchased the business and plant, the firm name being Smith, Hill & Co., Mr. Smith being the business manager. This partnership continued until April, 1881, when Mr. Smith sold out his interest. He was married May 3, 1875, to Josie M. Chapin, of Hartford, Conn.

FRANK W. GOURLAY was born in Boston, Jan. 17, 1859. He attended the public schools of that city, which was his home, with the exception of four years spent in New Haven, Conn., until he came to Athol in 1876. He immediately entered the Transcript office, where he has been employed to the present time, and has for the last nine years held the position of foreman. He is a member of all the local Masonic and Odd Fellow organizations, is a charter member of Tully Lodge, Mount

Pleasant Encampment and Canton Athol, and is Past Commandant of Canton Athol. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He was married June 20, 1889, to Miss Mary E. Stowell, of North Orange.

No sketch of the newspaper enterprises of the town would be complete that overlooked the unique and successful undertakings of the Cottager Company and W. H. Brock & Co. These are "The Cottager," The Healthy Home," "Progress" and "Our Church Record." The "Cottager" was established in 1881, and is an eight-page family monthly devoted to "good literature and a concise record of current events." It has gained a phenomenal circulation, and was long ago ranked by Pettingill's agency as having the largest subscription circulation of any paper in the state outside of Boston, with but one exception. "The Healthy Home" is a hygienic publication, also a monthly. It is published by W. H. Brock & Co., and the mechanical work is done by the Cottager Company. It was founded in 1890, and is known all over the country as the leading paper of its class. The "Progress" is the weekly edition of the "Cottager," and contains numerous local features. "Our Church Record" is a successful and unique weekly, devoted to the interests of the local churches. All these papers, except "The Healthy Home," are published by the Cottager Company, an organization incorporated in 1896, under Massachusetts law, to carry on the printing and publishing business previously owned by W. H. Brock & Co. It has a paid-up capital of fifteen thousand dollars,





WINFIELD H. BROCK.



WILL K. BRIGGS.



with these officers: President, W. K. Briggs; clerk, Ernest Shriver; treasurer, Winfield H. Brock.

WINFIELD H. BROCK is well known as the stirring and successful moving and managing spirit in this large printing and publishing house. He was born Oct. 24, 1861, and is a descendant of one of the oldest families in town, and lives in the ancestral homestead on Pleasant Street. He graduated from the Athol High School in 1878, and after teaching school and pursuing further studies in other institutions, began newspaper work as local man for the "Springfield Republican." He bought an interest in "The Cottager" in 1885, and has since been at the head of the business department of that paper, and its associated undertakings. No small part of their growth and success has been due to his tact and enterprise. In 1893, he bought a half interest in the "Athol Transcript," though never taking an active part in its management. He was married September 22, 1889, to Angela B. Ford, of Hanover, Mass. They have one son, Roland Humphrey.

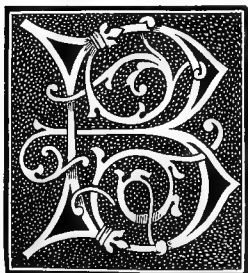
WILL K. BRIGGS has been associated in the ownership and management of the Cottager Company's various undertakings since 1890, having sole charge of the mechanical part, and is now president of the corporation. He was born in Athol, Feb. 9, 1856, and has been connected with the printing business since early boyhood. He is one of the stewards of the Methodist church, and has been connected with the choir for many years. He is a member of Tully lodge of Odd Fellows. He was married March 30, 1878, to Miss Jennie L. Gage, and has one son, Merton L., a graduate of the Athol High School, and now a student at Boston University.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

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### POST OFFICES AND BANKS.

"The post is the grand connecting link of all transactions, of all negotiations. Those who are absent, by its means become present; it is the consolation of life."



BEFORE the establishment of a post office in Athol, those having mail probably received it, as did the people of most of the other towns in the state, either by some post rider passing through the village or by the service of private parties. In 1769, the only post office in Massachusetts was in Boston, and in 1793 the nearest offices to Athol were those of Worcester and Greenfield. A post office was established in Athol in 1802, and the first record we find of mail coaches passing through the town is in 1803, when a line of mail coaches from Leominster to Greenfield was established, connecting at Leominster with mail stages for Boston. These coaches left Leominster at 6 A. M., on Thursdays, via. Westminster, Templeton and Athol, arriving at Greenfield at 7 P. M.,

and returning on Saturdays. The first postmaster of the Athol office was Joseph Estabrook, appointed Oct. 1, 1802. He held the office only six months, and was succeeded by Solomon Strong, a young lawyer who had just located in Athol. He was appointed April 1, 1803, and held the office two years. The postmasters of the Athol office since that time, including those who have served since the name of the office was changed to Athol Centre, with the date of their appointment, have been as follows:

James Humphreys, April 1, 1805; Joseph Proctor, Feb. 11, 1809; Nathaniel C. Esterbrook, Sept. 13, 1822; Clough R. Miles, March 24, 1823; Lincoln B. Knowlton, Feb. 25, 1835; Wm. H. Williams, Aug. 24, 1837; Isaac Stevens, July 13, 1841; Wm. H. Williams, Sept. 5, 1842; Benjamin Esterbrook, Dec. 30, 1847; Stillman Simonds, Aug. 25, 1849; Isaac Stevens, June 10, 1850; John H. Williams, May 13, 1854; Samuel Lee, March 27, 1858; Thomas H. Goodspeed, June 25, 1862; Frank H. Raymond, July, 1885; James F. Whitcomb, Dec. 20, 1889; Edwin B. Horton, March 28, 1894.

The office at the Centre has been known as the Athol Centre office since July 1, 1875. The business of this office for the year 1897 is shown by the following figures: Gross receipts for the year, \$3,213.65; domestic orders issued, 1,075, amounting to \$6,316.57; domestic orders paid 253, amounting to \$1,945.04; pouches received daily, ten, despatched daily, nine.

JAMES F. WHITCOMB, who succeeded F. H. Raymond as postmaster of the Athol Centre office, was born in

1835, at Claremont, N. H. At the age of five years he had lost both of his parents, and was taken to the home of a relative in Templeton, Mass., where his childhood was passed. When twelve years of age he was apprenticed to learn the boot business in Brooks village, where he worked at boot making until twenty-five years of age. After two years spent on a farm in Phillipston, he came to Athol about 1863, and was employed at the shop of Jones & Baker until that firm closed up business here, when he went to work for M. L. Lee & Co., where he was engaged for six or seven years. Since that time he has been engaged in the tin and stove business in the firm of Frost & Whitcomb. Mr. Whitcomb was appointed postmaster by President Harrison, Dec. 20, 1889. He was secretary of the Worcester Northwest Agricultural Society about fifteen years, first taking that position in 1874, has served as assessor of the town for several years, been one of the engineers of the fire department, Master of Athol Grange, and prominent in the various Masonic organizations of the town.

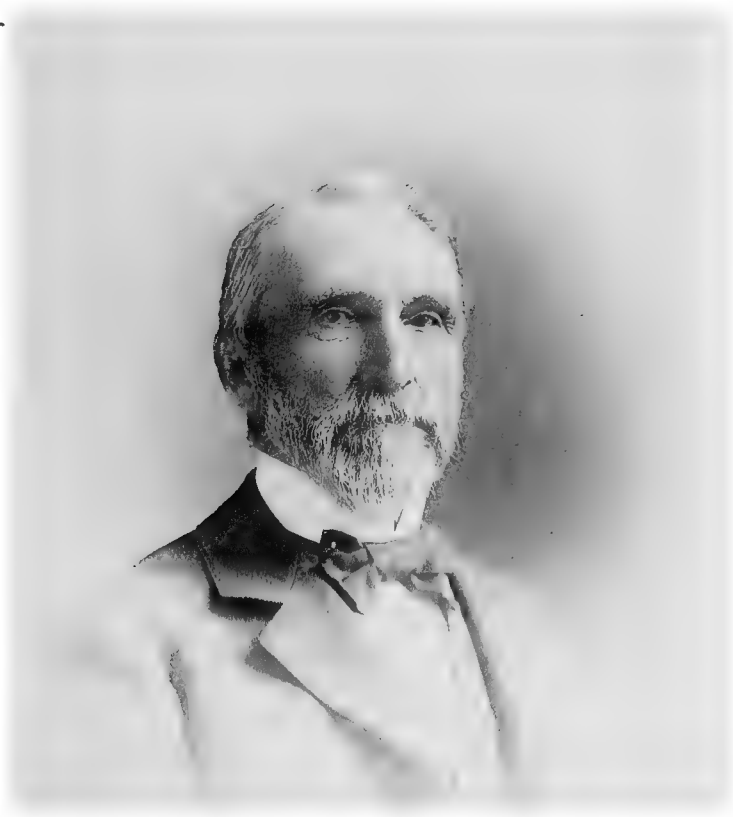
EDWIN B. HORTON, the present postmaster of the Athol Centre office, was born in New Salem, Jan. 28, 1839. His parents moved to Athol when he was about twelve years of age, and this town has been his home ever since, with the exception of about a year and a half, when he was employed in the United States Armory at Springfield. He was an employee in the Edwin Ellis sash and blind shop for eighteen years, and has also been employed in the C. M. Lee shoe shops and the Kennebunk mill.

He was also in the stove and tin ware business with E. W. Train, at the lower village, for five years. He has been prominent in the Masonic fraternity, having been Master of Athol lodge. He was married in 1860 to Martha M. Drake of Warwick, and has two children. He was appointed postmaster by President Cleveland, March 28, 1894, and took charge of the office April 7 of that year.

The residents of the "factory village," as it was formerly called, used to have their mail brought to them by the school children in their dinner pails, and about fifty years ago a boy was hired to go to the post office at the Centre every day, who brought the mail to the village in his hat except on Fridays, when the papers came, and he then carried a small bag.

A post office was first established in the village in 1849, and was called Athol Depot. The first postmaster was Joseph W. Hammond, who was appointed Aug. 4, 1849. He was a tailor, and opened the office in his shop, situated where C. F. Gage's store now is. Sylvanus Twichell, landlord of the Pequig House, was appointed postmaster Aug. 7, 1851, and moved the office to the hotel, where it remained for thirteen years. The postmasters since that time with the date of their appointments are; Howard B. Hunt, Nov. 1, 1864; Lucien Lord, April 21, 1869; William W. Fish, Jan. 16, 1888; Arthur C. Longley, Feb. 14, 1891; Justin W. Clayton, March 12, 1895. Some time in 1873 the citizens of the Lower Village petitioned the Post Office Department to change the name of their post office from Athol Depot to Athol. This

petition did not succeed, but another and more determined effort was made in the spring of 1875, when W. H. Bigelow, a special agent of the Post Office Department, was sent to Athol to investigate the case. He spent several days in town, during which time public hearings, which were largely attended and of a most exciting nature, were held in Starr and Music halls on the twelfth and thirteenth of March. Hon. Charles Field represented the petitioners and Col. George H. Hoyt appeared for the remonstrants, who were the citizens of the Upper Village, with a few residents of the Lower Village, and who objected most strenuously to any change in the name of their office. As a result of these hearings, Postmaster General Jewell issued the following order in April: "Ordered that the name of the post office at Athol Depot be changed to Athol; the post office now called Athol may be called Athol Centre, or it may be made a station of Athol post office, or may be given another name than Athol which the people interested may desire. The change of name is to take effect July 1st." In 1854, the business of this office for the quarter from April 1 to July 1 amounted to only \$79.98, and for the same quarter in 1874 the full business amounted to \$1,078.70. The business for the year 1897 was as follows: Gross receipts for the year, \$12,210.61; total expenditures, \$6,257.20; domestic orders issued, 4,007, amounting to \$22,128.12; domestic orders paid, 2,454, amounting to \$16,730.07; pouches received daily, twenty, despatched daily, eighteen. This office handles more newspapers than any office of its



HON. ALPHEUS HARDING.









THOMAS H. GOODSPEED.

for the Athol Savings Bank, of which he was the treasurer until Jan. 1, 1892, when he was elected president, which position he still holds. In 1879 and 1880, he was senator from the Fourth Worcester District, serving the first year as chairman of the committees on banks and banking, and education. In 1880, he was a delegate from the Tenth Congressional district to the national republican convention at Chicago, and assisted in nominating Gen. Garfield for president. He was married Sept. 6, 1842, to Maria Prudence Taft, they have two children, William B. who resides in Holyoke, and Ella who married A. L. Newman.

THOMAS H. GOODSPEED was born in Phillipston, Nov. 15, 1833. He attended the public schools of his native town, and served as clerk in the store of his uncle, Jason Goulding, where he commenced his business career, at the age of thirteen years, going to school during the winter and working in the store the remainder of the time. When fifteen years old he went to New Salem as clerk in the store and postoffice of Alpheus Harding, where he was the only clerk. From New Salem he went to Williston Seminary at Easthampton, where he was a student for a year, after which he returned to Phillipston and the store of his uncle. At the age of nineteen years he engaged in business for himself in Phillipston, which he conducted for three years, and came to Athol in 1856, and went into business with his uncle, James I. Goulding, at the Centre. Subsequently he bought out his uncle, and continued the business alone for several years, and then

went in company with Samuel Lee. His mercantile life in Athol extended over a period of about twelve years, from 1856 to 1868, after which he was largely engaged in conveyancing, insurance and real estate business. Few of our citizens have held so many positions of trust and honor as Mr. Goodspeed. He was appointed postmaster of the Centre office June 25, 1862, which position he held until July, 1885, was town clerk from 1863 to 1873, town treasurer from 1875 to 1879, and a Representative to the Legislature from this district in 1869. He has been president of the Athol National Bank from its incorporation, in 1874, to the present time, and has served the Worcester Northwest Agricultural Society as its treasurer from its incorporation in 1867, a period of thirty years, and is now the Delegate of the Society on the State Board of Agriculture. He was also treasurer of the Athol Silk Co. from 1882 until it was reorganized under the new management in 1895. Mr. Goodspeed has been an active worker in the Republican party for many years, and was the alternate delegate from this congressional district at the National Convention of 1896, in St. Louis. He has always been actively interested in town affairs, and has served on many important committees. He married L. Elvira Richardson of Phillipston, Oct. 22, 1856.

COL. ALBERT L. NEWMAN, who was for upwards of fifteen years, one of the most prominent factors in the financial, social and political affairs of Athol, was the second son of George and Lydia Newman, of Brattleboro, Vt., where he was born. He came to Athol when a young

size in this part of the country, there being twelve publications entered at the second class rate, the total weight of which, for the year 1897, amounted to 48,514 pounds. The free delivery system went into effect Nov. 1, 1897, when Charles A. Perry, Josiah P. Bigelow, Irwin L. Knowlton and Harry L. Doane were appointed as the first letter carriers, with Charles S. King and Charles E. Tandy as substitutes. There are twenty-eight street letter boxes, and one package box. Miss Minnie E. Slate, assistant post master, was first appointed as clerk in February, 1888, and has served as assistant to postmasters Longley and Clayton.

HOWARD B. HUNT, who succeeded Sylvanus Twichell as postmaster, was born in New Salem, Nov. 22, 1834. His education was obtained in the schools of New Salem and Orange, and at Monson Academy. He taught school several years, and came to Athol about 1862, when he entered the employ of J. S. Parmenter as clerk. In 1864, on the death of Postmaster Twichell, Mr. Hunt was appointed to the office by President Lincoln. In 1868, he resigned in favor of Lucien Lord, and engaged in the music and insurance business with his brother, Nelson H. Hunt. From small beginnings this business became one of the most important and extensive in this vicinity, and increased to such an extent as to necessitate the removal to a larger field, and in 1875 the firm removed to Springfield and, in 1878, to Boston, where as the New England agents for the Estey Organ Manufacturing Co., of Brattleboro, Vt., they did an extensive business. While

a student at Monson Academy Mr. Hunt was converted, and joined the Baptist church at North Prescott and, soon after coming to Athol, connected himself with the Baptist church of this town, in which he was deeply interested, and took an active part during his residence in town. In 1862, he married Miss Jennie Scott, who died a few years after. Mr. Hunt died suddenly of apoplexy, April 4, 1880, at the home of his brother in Newton. The remains were brought to Athol, where they were received by a committee of the citizens and escorted to the Baptist church, where a large number had assembled to pay the last tribute of love and respect to one who had been deeply loved and honored. The burial took place at Silver Lake cemetery. He was a man of the kindest impulses, who brightened his own pathway through life by lessening the burdens of others.

ARTHUR E. LONGLEY, who succeeded William W. Fish as postmaster of the Athol office, was born in Peterboro, N. H., Aug. 20, 1861. When he was eight years old his parents moved to New Ipswich, N. H., and after a residence there of six years removed to Royalston, which was his home until he came to Athol as assistant postmaster, June 6, 1881. He served as assistant under the administrations of Lucien Lord and William W. Fish, and performed the duties of his position in such a satisfactory manner that at the expiration of Mr. Fish's term of office a petition for the appointment of Mr. Longley as postmaster was circulated, and largely signed by the patrons of the office. He was appointed by President Harrison, Feb. 14, 1891, and



HOWARD B. HUNT.



ARTHUR C. LONGLEY.



JUSTIN W. CLAYTON.



JAMES F. WHITCOMB.





served until April 1, 1895. After retiring from the post office, Mr. Longley was employed as clerk in various stores until the fall of 1897 when, in company with Fred B. Oliver, he purchased the stationery and paper business of E. E. Cleveland.

JUSTIN W. CLAYTON, the present postmaster of the Athol office, was born in Windham, Vt., April 20, 1867, His father, Rev. A. W. Clayton, was an Adventist minister, and a veteran of the war of the rebellion. Justin was graduated at Glenwood Seminary, in Brattleboro, Vt., in 1887, and pursued his studies at the University of Vermont for a year. He came to Athol in September, 1888, to enter the employ of Goddard & Manning, then starting the manufacture of piano cases. He was for six years foreman of the veneer department of that industry, and was appointed postmaster March 12, 1895, and took charge of the office April 1. He is a prominent member of the Baptist church and has been active in the work of the church and Sunday School. He is one of the directors of the Young Men's Christian Association, and also of the Massachusetts Baptist Sunday School Association. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Poquaug Club, and in 1892 was the candidate of the democratic party for representative to the Legislature. A short time before coming to Athol he married Miss Claudia M. Campbell, daughter of C. C. Campbell of Westminster, Vt. During his administration of the post office the free mail delivery system has been established, and other improvements made.

## BANKS.

**MILLERS RIVER BANK.** In 1854 Charles C. Bassett, Isaac Stevens and Lewis Thorpe, their associates and successors, were made a corporation by the name of the Millers River Bank, and September 12th, of that year, commenced business with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars. The first president was John Boynton, a successful tinware manufacturer of Templeton, who was the founder of the Free Institute of Industrial Science at Worcester. The first cashier was also a Templeton manufacturer, Merrick E. Ainsworth. In 1856, Seth Hapgood of Petersham succeeded Mr. Boynton as president, and Alpheus Harding, Jr., was appointed cashier in August of the same year. On the death of Mr. Hapgood, Isaac Stevens was chosen president in 1864, and in January, 1866, Alpheus Harding succeeded Mr. Stevens as president, which position he still holds. On the promotion of Mr. Harding to the presidency, Albert L. Newman became cashier and held the position until May, 1881, when he was succeeded by Wm. D. Luey, who still holds the position. In August, 1857, the capital was increased to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and March 1, 1865, the name was changed to the Millers River National Bank. In 1889 the present fine banking house which it now occupies was built at a cost of upwards of seventy thousand dollars.

**ATHOL SAVINGS BANK.** The Athol Savings Bank was chartered Feb. 12, 1867, and commenced business in March of that year. Charles C. Bassett was its first pres-



MILLERS RIVER NATIONAL BANK.



ident, which position he held until 1882, when he was succeeded by John G. Mudge of Petersham, who held that office until his death in 1891. Alpheus Harding was the treasurer from the organization of the bank until he became president in Jan. 1, 1892, when Wm. D. Luey was elected as treasurer. The deposits Jan. 1, 1898, amounted to \$2,019,786.95.

ATHOL NATIONAL BANK began business Sept. 15, 1874, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars. Its first board of directors were Thomas H. Goodspeed, Solon W. Lee, Lyman W. Hapgood, Edwin Ellis, James M. Lee, Washington H. Amsden and Gilbert Southard, Athol; S. S. Farrar, South Royalston; Edward Powers, Phillipston; D. C. Paige, Petersham; Isaac Bourn, Templeton. Thomas H. Goodspeed has been president of the bank since its organization, and Charles A. Chapman, cashier.

ATHOL CO-OPERATIVE BANK was organized in July, 1889, with George D. Bates as president, T. H. Goodspeed, vice president and C. F. Richardson, secretary and treasurer. Eighteen series of shares have been issued, and it now has loans on real estate amounting to \$77,205, and on shares of \$4,990.

HON. ALPHEUS HARDING, son of Rev. Alpheus and Sarah (Bridge) Harding, was born in New Salem, Jan. 12, 1818, and was the fifth in a family of seven children. His father was a settled minister in New Salem for more than forty years, and especially prominent in connection with New Salem Academy, the public schools, and the general educational interests of his time. Alpheus, Jr.,

was fitted for college in the Academy at New Salem, and entered Amherst College in 1833, leaving, on account of ill health, the following year. In 1835, he entered the store of Jonathan Haskell & Co., and was engaged in mercantile life in Petersham and New Salem for twenty-one years. During ten years of that time he was postmaster of New Salem, and served the town about the same length of time as town clerk and treasurer. He was also at various times chairman of the board of selectmen, assessors and overseers of the poor, and has been one of the trustees of New Salem Academy since 1856. He was a member of the House of Representatives from New Salem in 1851, and took part in the long and memorable struggle which resulted in the election of Charles Sumner to the United States Senate for the first time, and was again a member representing the same town in 1853. His first political affiliation was with the democratic party, and he was elected to the Legislature as a democrat, but the slavery question took him out of that party, and he assisted in the formation of the free soil party, with which he acted until the formation of the republican party, of which he has always been an ardent supporter. In 1856, he received the appointment of cashier of the Millers River Bank, and removed to Athol. He held that position eleven years and was then elected president, which office he has held to the present time. In the years 1863 and 1867, he represented Athol and Royalston in the Legislature, serving both years on the committee on railroads, and was instrumental in the latter year in obtaining a charter



COL. ALBERT L. NEWMAN.



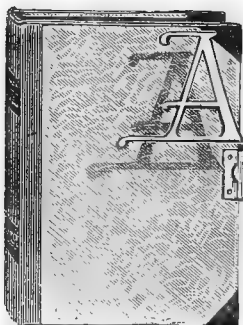


man less than twenty years of age, and began his duties as teller of the Millers River National Bank, from which position he was promoted to that of cashier, in January, 1866, and continued in that position until May, 1881, when he resigned to accept the vice presidency of the National Bank of the Commonwealth, in Boston. Mr. Newman had managed the affairs of the Millers River Bank with such ability and success that it had attracted attention from abroad, and when he left Athol for the wider field of the great metropolis of New England, his commanding abilities as a financier and business man soon gave him honorable rank among Boston financiers, and after serving the National Bank of the Commonwealth as vice president for a short time he became its president, which position he continued to hold until about 1892, when he retired, on account of failing health, and with his wife spent several months in Europe. On his return home he engaged in the brokerage business with H. A. Rogers and J. S. Tolman. Mr. Newman was one of the founders, and always a generous supporter of the Second Unitarian church of Athol. He served on the staff of Governor Oliver Ames, with the rank of Colonel. He was a man of engaging social qualities, absolute integrity, and of strong and tender affections. He married Miss Ella M. Harding, only daughter of Hon. Alpheus Harding, June 16, 1868. They had one son Albert Harding Newman. Col. Newman died in Boston, May 2, 1894.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### SONS OF ATHOL.

"The heights by great men reached and kept  
Were not attained by sudden flight;  
But they, while their companions slept,  
Were toiling upward through the night."



MONG the Sons of Athol, reared among these hills who have gone forth into the world and performed deeds that have set in motion influences that have assisted in moulding public opinion and the legislation of the country, and have made their names distinguished beyond the boundaries of their native town, county and state, may be mentioned the names of Ginery Twichell, Lysander Spooner, Joel D. Stratton and Col. George H. Hoyt.

GINERY TWICHELL, a son of Captain Francis Twichell was born in Athol, August 26, 1811. He left school at the early age of sixteen to take charge of a portion of the business of Mr. Joel Kendall, an extensive mill owner. After that he went into the employment of Samuel Sweetser, and subsequently worked as clerk in a store in Petersham. At the age of nineteen he took charge of the stage line from Barre to Worcester.







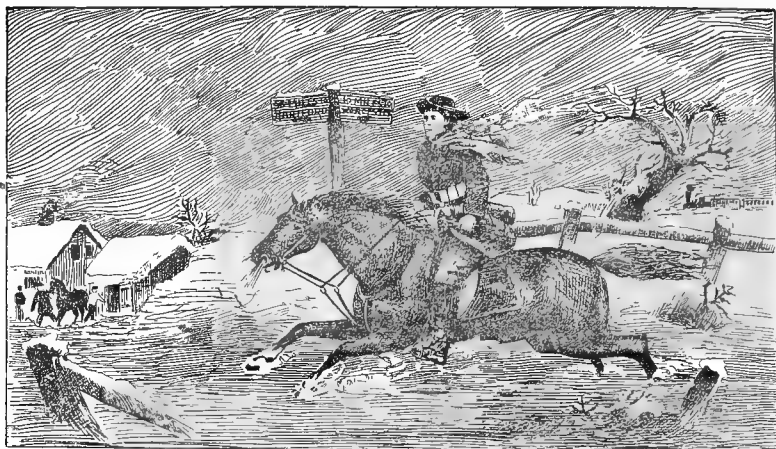
*Ginery Twichell*



By patience and kindness, not only to his patrons, but also to rivals and competitors in business, by the strictest fidelity to all the trusts committed to him and by wise economy in the conduct of his business, he advanced from the position of driver to that of owner; and finally, by thus conciliating and winning the public patronage exclusively to himself, he drove his rivals from the field. For five years he was employed as driver on the stage line from Barre to Worcester. He then secured an interest in the business; and so rapid was his success that in ten years he became sole proprietor of over two hundred horses, and of several lines of stage-coaches between Worcester and various points in the states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. For ten years from 1840 Mr. Twichell was engaged to collect the votes of the State on election day so that they could be published in the Boston papers the following morning, and in the accomplishment of this he took many stirring and daring rides. The most remarkable feat in the way of conveying news was performed by him in 1846, which illustrates his indomitable energy as well as the rival enterprise of the newspaper press. It appears that the steamship *Hibernia* had arrived in Boston in January, 1846, nineteen days out, with news that Robert Peel was to return to office as Prime Minister, John Russell having failed to form a ministry. This had an important bearing on the question of the Oregon boundary, Russell being for war with the United States and Peel for peace. The New York papers were anxious to secure the news as soon as possible. The *Herald* had made ar-

rangements with the railroad and steamboat companies to carry its despatches to New York, and the Tribune and other papers of New York and Philadelphia were excluded by the Herald from participating in its arrangements.

Mr. Twichell undertook to carry the despatches to the papers that were excluded by the Herald, and was obliged to use horses instead of steam power for most of the distance. He could obtain an engine to run from Boston to



GINERY TWICHELL AS THE UNRIVALLED EXPRESS RIDER.

Worcester only on condition of its being fifteen minutes behind the Herald's train. From Worcester to Hartford, a distance of sixty-six miles, he rode on horseback through a deep snow in the remarkably short time of three hours and twenty minutes; thence from Hartford to New Haven, by railroad, thirty-six miles; from New Haven to New York, seventy-six miles, by horses; and reached New York City in season for the printing of the despatches before the



arrival of those of the Herald. In this case horse power surpassed steam power. Mr. Twichell's remarkable feat of horsemanship excited so much interest that it was commemorated by a large and beautiful engraving entitled "The Unrivalled Express Rider."

Although the railroad from Boston to Worcester was opened July 6, 1835, Mr. Twichell continued his extensive stage business until June 1, 1848, when he was appointed Assistant Superintendent of the Boston & Worcester Railroad. In less than a year—May 1849—he was promoted to the office of Superintendent. After holding this position for ten years he was advanced to that of President of the road, in February 1857, and was elected to the same position annually for ten successive years.

Soon after the opening of the war of the Rebellion he rendered valuable assistance to the Government in the transportation of the mail from Washington to the North. Communication with the East was blockaded, when Mr. Twichell tendered his services to the Government to remove or escape the blockade. The mails had been accumulating for five days when the Post Master General confided the mails to his care, and they were safely delivered to the towns and cities of the North. Mr. Twichell was elected to Congress, and was a member of the fortieth, forty-first and forty-second Congresses, serving on the Committee of Post Offices and Post Roads. In 1870 he became president of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad, which he served four years, was elected president of the Boston, Barre and Gardner Railroad in March

1873, and continued until February, 1878. Also, in 1882, became president of the Hoosac Tunnel and Western, Railroad Company. He was twice married, first on Aug. 26, 1846, to Miss Theodotia R., daughter of Mr. Creighton Ruggles of Barre, by whom he had eight children. He was married a second time, June 28, 1877, to Mrs. Catharine M. (Burt) Vinal, daughter of William S. Burt, of Ithaca, N. Y.

Among the sons of Athol, none have attained a more famous name, or engaged the attention of the public to a greater extent than did Col. George H. Hoyt, who in the brief time of less than two decades had performed deeds that link his name with some of the most stirring events of the last half century.

COL. GEORGE H. HOYT was born in Athol, Nov. 25, 1837, a son of Dr. George Hoyt. In 1851, Dr. Hoyt moved with his family to Boston, and at an early age George entered a law office in that city. He was engaged in the study of law at the time of the ever memorable John Brown raid on Harpers Ferry. He had inherited from his father those fearless and daring qualities of his nature that were characteristic of him throughout his life, and with the enthusiasm of his young manhood, he offered himself as volunteer counsel for Brown, and his services having been accepted he went to Charlestown, Va., where he defended Brown with courage and ability. Soon after Hoyt's arrival the Southern counsel appointed to defend Brown withdrew, and left the responsibility for the defence upon the young lawyer until the arrival of Messrs Chilton



COL. GEORGE H. HOYT.



and Griswold, who were to conduct the defence. A paper, in referring to these advocates for Brown, had the following: "The zeal and devotion of Messrs Chilton, Griswold and Hoyt in behalf of an unfortunate fellow being, surrounded only by those against whom his crimes were directed, and from whom, therefore, he could expect no sympathy, are worthy of all praise. Hoyt had come from Boston travelling night and day, to volunteer his services in defense of Brown." As showing the danger to which those who defended Brown were exposed, we quote from a Richmond letter: "Judge Russell of Boston started for home this morning. Mr. Hoyt, the lawyer, also returned. That he was suffered to depart without molestation is considered here a powerful proof of the forbearance of the people." We next hear of the young lawyer in Kansas where early in 1861 he enlisted in John Brown, Jr's. company of sharpshooters, and afterwards became connected with the First Kansas Cavalry, being commissioned Second Lieutenant. Early in 1862 he was made a Captain in that regiment, and as such served with distinction under Generals Grant and Rosecrans in various campaigns. After the sacking of Lawrence, Captain Hoyt assisted in raising the Fifteenth Kansas Cavalry, and was made Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment, leading it with great bravery in the battles of Lexington, Little Blue, Independence and other severe conflicts. He was commissioned Brigadier General by Brevet, March 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Newtonia, Missouri, Oct. 28, 1864. A Kansas paper referred

to this battle as follows: "In this charge, one of the most glorious in its results during the war, and perhaps performed with less loss to the attacking party, acts of individual daring might be mentioned, deserving special commendation. The conduct of Lieut. Col. Hoyt, in particular upon this occasion, was such as to elicit the highest encomiums from all, and deserves to be recorded as worthy of particular emulation." He served in the army until the close of the war. Although so busily engaged in fighting the battles of the Union, yet he found time during those eventful days to worship at Hymen's altar, and on March 10, 1862, was united in marriage with Mary Anzonette Cheney, an Athol girl, who, courageous as her lover was fearless, journeyed from Massachusetts to Kansas for that purpose. After the war Gen. Hoyt resumed the practice of his profession in Kansas, in which he attained considerable distinction, and was in 1868 Attorney General of the State, residing at Topeka. He was also for a time editor of an influential daily paper of that state. In 1871, he removed to Athol with his family, and continued to practice law, and also purchased an interest in the Athol Transcript, then recently established, and of which he was the editor until the summer of 1873. He was twice elected as Representative to the Legislature from this district, serving in 1872 and 1873, and attained quite a reputation as a leader in legislation. He was commander of Parker Post, G. A. R., for three years, and was prominently identified with the Masonic fraternity. He had two children, George DeWitt and Mary. He died Feb. 2, 1877.

Uniontown, Jefferson Co., Pa. 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 1853.

George H Hoyt Esq

Dear Sir

Your kind letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> inst<sup>d</sup> is received. I exceedingly regret my inability to make you some other acknowledgments for all your efforts in my behalf than that which consists merely in words but so it is. May God's good conscience be your continual rewarder. I really do not see what you can do for me any further. I commend my poor family to the kind remembrance of all friends; but I well understand that they are not the only poor in our world. I ought to begin to leave <sup>the</sup> saying our world. I have but very little idea of the charges made against Mr Griswold; as I get to see but little of what is afloat. I am very sorry for any wrong that may be done him. I have no means of contradicting any thing that may be said; not knowing what is said. I cannot see how it should be any more dishonorable for him to receive some compensation for his expenses & service than for Mr Chilton & I am aware that any blame is charged to him on that score. I am getting more letters constantly than I well know how to answer. My many kind friends appear to have very wrong ideas of my condition as regards replying to all the kind communications I receive. Your friend in truth  
John Brown





JOEL D. STRATTON was born in Athol, Aug. 11, 1816. He spent his boyhood and youth with his parents, laboring upon his father's farm until he was twenty-one years of age, when he removed to Worcester and was employed by Thomas Tucker, Esq., the proprietor of the American Temperance House. It was while he was there, in the capacity of a waiter, in the autumn of 1842, that occurred the memorable event in his life, which made him so widely known throughout the United States, and still more widely in Great Britain and Ireland, as the man who was the instrument of John B. Gough's reformation. Mr. Gough, in his autobiography, describes in a feeling manner the circumstances of his meeting with Mr. Stratton, and of signing the pledge. At the time of this interview Mr. Stratton was a single man, and is said to have been a modest, unobtrusive and retiring man, and those who wished to become acquainted with him were compelled to seek his society. On the 6th of May, 1845, he married Miss Susan P. Day, an excellent Christian lady, who was his constant and faithful companion through life. There was little to distinguish his later years, and the care and support of a family compelled him to follow closely his occupation, which was that of a boot-crimper. With the exception of four years spent in the town of Paxton, his home was Worcester during all his later life. He died Nov. 4, 1860, and on his death bed received the blessing of the reformed man, who reminded him of the thousands who were thankful that he ever lived. Mr. Gough said of him: "I owe to him all that I am, since I have been

worth anything to my fellow-men." Regarding the results of this act, Francis A. Gaskill says in his sketch on the History of Worcester, "The consecration to a life of sobriety and moral effort made by John B. Gough, when at the Worcester Town Hall on Oct. 31, 1842, he took the pledge of total abstinence, had doubtless a more beneficial effect upon the whole land in the grand efforts for the reclamation of those addicted to the excessive use of liquor, and in the elevation of the moral sentiment of the country, than any other agency."

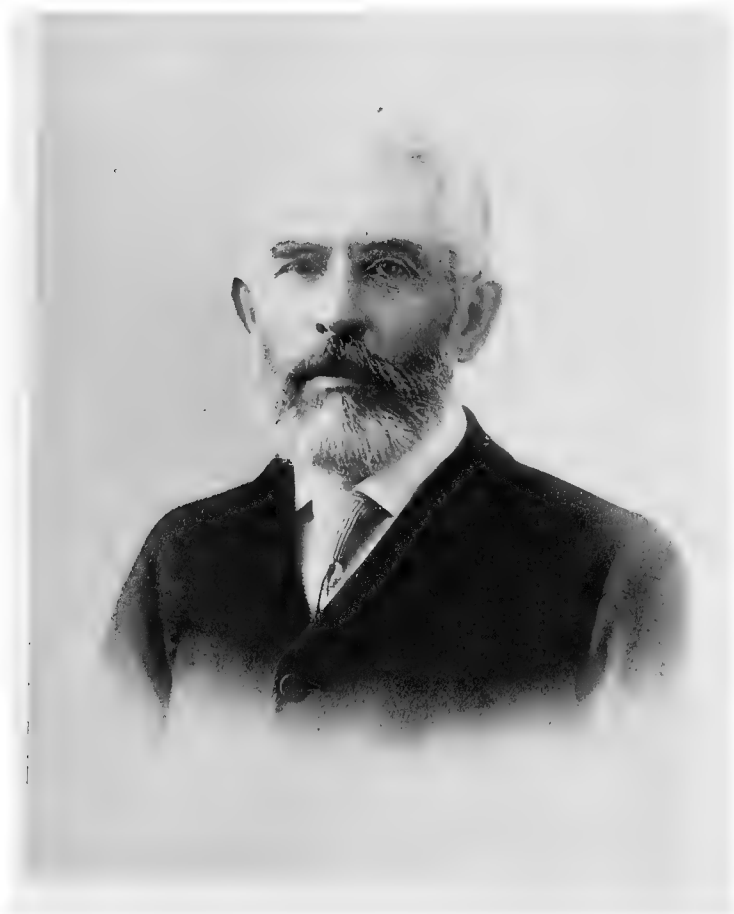
LYSANDER SPOONER was undoubtedly the most unique and remarkable character Athol ever produced, and his work and influence were of a national character. He was born Jan. 19, 1808, on the farm bordering Lake Ellis on the east, now occupied by George J. Sutton. He was a son of Asa Spooner, who had a family of children several of whom attained distinction. Young Spooner spent his boyhood, and a few years of his early manhood, on his father's farm, and at the age of twenty-five, equipped with such learning as a country school education then afforded, he went to Worcester where he obtained a clerkship in the Registry of Deeds. After a year's experience there he gave up his clerkship and began to read law in the office of John Davis, a celebrated member of the Worcester bar, and later studied in the office of Charles Allen, one of the foremost of Massachusetts lawyers. At that time Massachusetts statutes required three years extra study from men not college bred as a condition of admission to the bar. In utter disregard of this law, Mr.

Spooner opened a law office in Worcester, and this bold move, made still more forcible by an argument that he printed and circulated among the members of the Legislature, secured the repeal of the obnoxious law. After a residence of six years in Ohio he returned to the East, and commenced the memorable contest with the government, which gained for him the title of "father of cheap postage in America." At that time the rates of postage were enormous, as compared with the present. Mr. Spooner saw that the evil could be remedied by competition, and failing to convince the people of this fact by arguments, he accordingly, in 1844, started a private mail between Boston and New York, and soon extended it to Philadelphia and Baltimore, charging but five cents a letter between any of these points, which was a very much smaller sum than the government was then charging. The business was an immediate success and was rapidly extending. As the carrying of each letter was a separate offence, the government was able to shower prosecutions upon him and crush him out in a few months. The matter had, however, created such an excitement in the country that the following year public sentiment compelled a large reduction in the government rates of postage. He was also prominent in the abolition conflict, and attained considerable fame at the time by his pamphlet on "The Unconstitutionality of Slavery." The work and doctrines were endorsed by Gerrit Smith and Elizur Wright, and became the text book of the Liberty Party. He was the author of numerous pamphlets, the most largely circulated

of which was one which appeared under the title of "Revolution" and which treated the Irish land question in a most vigorous style. This pleased the friends of Ireland so much that an edition of one hundred thousand was printed, and a copy sent to each member of the English aristocracy, to each member of the House of Commons, and to every official of any note in the British dominions, and the remainder throughout the centres of England and Canada. The last years of his life were spent in Boston, where he could be seen almost every day in the Boston Athenæum Library, busily engaged in studying and writing. He died May 14, 1887.

The Sprague Brothers, Lucius Knight, Edwin Loring and Henry Harrison, all of whom are Sons of Athol, trace their paternal ancestry back to Edward Sprague of Upwey, Dorset County, England, whose ancient stone fulling mill, erected probably at the beginning of the seventeenth century, is still standing, a silent memorial to one of Upwey's old-time industries. William Sprague, youngest son of Edward and the founder of this branch of the family in America, was one of the early planters of Massachusetts, arriving at Naumkeag, now Salem, in 1628, with Governor Endicott. He originally settled in Charlestown, whence he removed in 1636 to Hingham, and was a leading man of that settlement. His father-in-law, Anthony Eames, was also active in the town's affairs, and was the first commander of the militia or "train band." They are also descendants of Richard Warren, one of the immortal band of Mayflower passengers.





EDWIN L. SPRAGUE.

George Sprague, their father, was a son of Joshua Sprague who removed from Hingham to Petersham and married Lois Stockwell, daughter of Capt. Ephraim and Sarah Stockwell. Capt. Stockwell was one of Athol's captains in the Revolution and led a company to the battle of Bennington.

EDWIN LORING SPRAGUE was born in Athol, July 6, 1838, and received his education in the schools of the town. Upon the opening of the Millers River Bank in 1854 he became its clerk and so remained until his removal to Boston in 1858. In Boston for three years he was book-keeper for Clement, Colburn & Co., a prominent boot and shoe firm, which position he relinquished on account of impaired health early in 1861. After a long vacation he returned to Boston, and engaged in the shoe manufacturing business as junior partner in the firm of Geo. N. Spear & Co., the firm name, after several changes, becoming and thereafter remaining, E. L. Sprague & Co. Although Mr. Sprague has never held public office he has always been an active worker in public matters, some of which have been of lasting influence. In 1867 he was chairman of the committee of young men whose labors culminated in the organization, after a temporary suspense of operations, of the Boston Young Men's Christian Union upon its present successful basis; and from 1868 to the time of his resignation in 1877 was its vice president, giving much time and thought to the work. In 1872 he initiated the final attempt which, after a hard struggle with powerful contending interests,

resulted in the establishment of the Board of Health of the city of Boston, the first commission of its kind in Boston. In 1873 after the "great fire" had demonstrated the imperative need of a reorganized fire department, he did like service towards the establishment of the Fire Commission on a basis similar to that of the Board of Health. The years of 1876 and 1877 were largely passed in Europe on account of ill health. In 1889 he proposed and secured the trial of a new manner of holding caucuses in Ward Eleven, where he resided; and in 1890, as Chairman of the Republican City Committee of Boston, he took the leading part in framing and securing the adoption of the rules which embodied the "Australian caucus" system, which later was incorporated into the law of the state. In 1892 he pioneered, and was most active in, the movement which resulted in the enactment by the Legislature of the so-called "Corrupt Practices Act," the first elaborate Act of its kind enacted in the United States, the provisions of which have since, to a considerable extent, been adopted in other States.

As Chairman of Committees of the Massachusetts State Board of Trade, having the work so far as that body was concerned, in charge, Mr. Sprague in the years of 1893-7 was an influential factor in securing the Anti-Stock Watering Legislation, which has placed Massachusetts far ahead of any other state in enactments which serve to place public service corporations upon a sound and equitable basis. Much of the "literature" upon this subject has come from his pen. He was one of the founders



of the Boston Civil Service Reform Association, the second if not the first Civil Service Association formed in this country, and has always been one of its officers. He is also a Director of the Massachusetts Civil Service Reform League, of the Municipal League of Boston, and the New England Shoe and Leather Association; a trustee of the permanent fund of the Boston Young Men's Christian Union, a Vice President of the Massachusetts State Board of Trade, and since its formation has been President of the Election Laws League of Massachusetts. He was married April 18, 1881 to Miss Elizabeth Searle Davis, daughter of Brevet Brigadier General Hasbrouche Davis, a son of Governor John Davis. They have had five children, Edwin Loring, Jr., Ruth Davis, Henry Bancroft, John Davis and Richard Warren, of whom all but John Davis are now living.

HENRY HARRISON SPRAGUE, youngest son of George and Nancy (Knight) Sprague, was born in Athol, Aug. 1, 1841. He received his preparatory education in the public and high schools of Athol and at the Chauncey Hall school of Boston, and was graduated from Harvard College in 1864. He spent one year in Champlain, New York, as a private tutor, and in 1865 entered the Harvard Law School and also became a proctor of the college. In the fall of 1866 he became a student in the law office of the late Henry W. Paine and Robert D Smith in Boston. He was admitted to the Suffolk bar, Feb. 25, 1868, and at once began the general practice of his profession in Boston, where he has come into prominence as an able,

and industrious lawyer. Mr. Sprague very early developed an interest in public affairs, and has for many years filled important positions of trust and responsibility. He was a member of the Boston Common Council for the municipal years of 1874, 1875 and 1876, and served during his second and third terms as a trustee of the Boston City Hospital on the part of the city council. In 1878 he was elected one of the trustees at large of that hospital, and continued to act as such until the establishment of the board as a corporation in 1880, when he was appointed a trustee by the mayor. He has held this office by successive reappointments down to the present time, a period of more than twenty years, and for eighteen years also served the board of trustees as secretary. In 1880 Mr. Sprague was elected to the lower house of the Legislature, and was twice re-elected, serving through the sessions of 1881, 1882 and 1884. He was a member of important committees, and his service was marked by untiring fidelity, not only to his constituents, but to the best interests of the entire Commonwealth, and won for him the reputation of an able, honest and conscientious legislator. In 1884 he was a member of the Municipal Reform Association, and as its senior counsel was largely instrumental in securing the passage by the Legislature of 1885 of the important amendments to the Boston city charter by which the executive authority was vested in the mayor.

Mr. Sprague was a member of the Massachusetts Senate in 1888, 1889, 1890 and 1891, representing the Fifth Suffolk district, and during his first term served on the



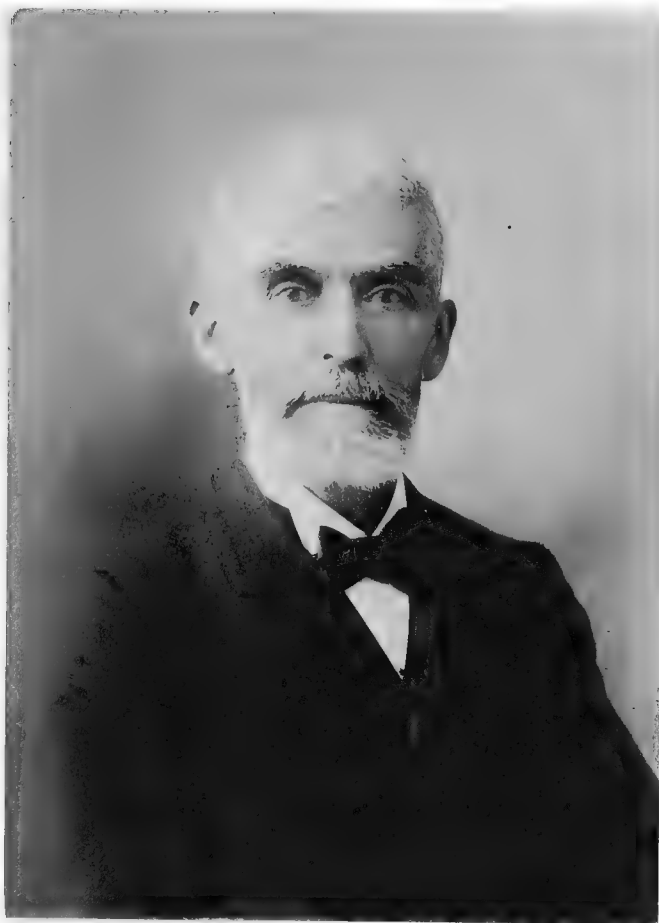
HENRY H. SPRAGUE.



committee on rules, on the judiciary, on cities, and on election laws. As chairman of the last named committee he drafted and introduced the new ballot act, the passage of which accomplished ballot reform. He was elected President of the Senate in 1890, and was re-elected to that office in 1891. He made an excellent presiding officer, displaying great parliamentary ability, and winning the respect and confidence of both opponents and friends for his strict impartiality and firm, yet courteous rulings. In 1862 Mr. Sprague was appointed by Governor Russell as chairman of a commission to revise the election laws of the Commonwealth and the revision recommended was adopted by the Legislature of the following year. He was appointed by Governor Greenhalge a member of the Metropolitan Water Board upon its organization in 1895 and made chairman of the board which position he still holds. He has served as President of the Boston Civil Service Reform Association since 1889, and has been a prominent member of the board of government of the Boston Young Men's Christian Union since 1867. He was for many years a manager of the Temporary Home for the Destitute, or Gwynne Home, and was one of the "Committee of Fifty" on the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. He has been secretary of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society since 1883, and is a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, of the Bostonian Society, the Harvard Law School Association, the Union and Unitarian Clubs and St Botolph Club. He is also one of the trustees appointed to hold the buildings of the Woman's

Educational and Industrial Union on Boylston Street, Boston, and is treasurer of the board, and was a member of the board of overseers of Harvard College from 1890 to 1896. In 1884 he published a treatise entitled "Women Under the Law of Massachusetts, their Rights, Privileges and Disabilities," and in 1890 another treatise on "City Government; Its Rise and Development," and he compiled for its one hundredth anniversary, "A Brief History of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society." Mr. Sprague was married in 1897 to Charlotte Sprague Ward, a daughter of the late George Lee Ward, of Boston. He resides in Boston, and in the practice of law as well as in various capacities in which he has served, has worthily and honorably represented the sterling characteristics of those who have so long borne the family name in New England.

LUCIUS KNIGHT SPRAGUE, the oldest of the children now living of George and Nancy (Knight) Sprague, was born in Athol, Aug. 7, 1836. His education was obtained in the Athol schools, and his first business experience as clerk in the dry goods store of Thorpe & Parmenter, where he remained two years. In 1857 he went to Iowa, then a frontier state, where he was with his brother, Leander M., for two and a half years, when he returned to Athol, taking his former position with Thorpe & Parmenter. In 1861 he went to Boston, into the employ of Farley, Amsden & Co., returning to Athol again in 1862 to succeed his father in the hardware business, which he conducted with marked success for two years, when, because of impaired health by reason of close attention to business, he



LUCIUS K. SPRAGUE.





sold out to Frank Hutchinson. He spent part of the year 1873 travelling in the West, and on his return to Athol was made secretary and treasurer of the Athol Machine Co., which position he held till 1875. On the illness and consequent long absence of his brother, Edwin L., in 1876 he went to Boston to take the personal management of his brother's business and has maintained his connection with it to the present time. He is engaged in the shoe machinery business, being treasurer of the Steam Heated Horn Co., of Boston. In 1862 he married Electa L. Roberts of Norwalk, Ohio. They have one child, Rufus Bates, a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1897, and now a member of the Harvard Law School. Mr. Sprague, with his son, has recently returned from an extended tour in Europe intended mainly for health and recreation, but resulting in establishing extensive business connections for the machinery company of which he is the treasurer.

JEROME JONES, youngest son of Theodore and Marcia (Estabrook) Jones, and grandson of Rev. Joseph Estabrook, the second minister of Athol, was born in Athol, Oct. 13, 1837. He was educated in the common schools of the town, and when a boy began his commercial life in a country store and post office. He was for a time a boy of all work in the store of Goddard & Ward of Orange. In June 1853 he began an apprenticeship with Otis Norcross & Co., of Boston then the leading crockery merchants in the United States. After serving in this position for several years he was in 1861 admitted as partner, being then

twenty-four years of age. For fifteen years he was the foreign buyer for the firm, going to Europe every year, where he selected the goods from the potteries and glass factories of England, France and Austria. After a long career of honor and success, the firm of Otis Norcross & Co. disappears from the list of Boston's great business houses, and is succeeded by that of Jones, McDuffee & Stratton, the largest establishment of its kind in the United States, and of which Mr. Jones is the head. Possessed of a keen judgment, innate tact, and an executive ability of the highest order, Mr. Jones has been called upon by various organizations to assist in their management, and especially is the high esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens of Boston shown by the positions of trust and honor to which they called him. No Bostonian is more active in everything tending to promote the commercial interests of Boston than Mr. Jones, and when Mayor Quincy requested the leading commercial organizations of the city to choose representatives to form the Merchants Municipal Committee, Mr. Jones was chosen by the Boston Board of Trade to represent that organization in the Mayor's cabinet. Among the various positions of honor and trust that he has been called upon to fill are the following: President of the Boston Commercial Club, trustee of Mt. Auburn Cemetery, vice president of the Home Savings Bank; president of the Boston Board of Trade, director of the Third National Bank and of the Massachusetts Loan and Trust Co. He is a member of several clubs, also of the Sons of the Revolution, the Bostonian



JEROME JONES.



FREDERICK E. PROCTOR.



WILSON H. LEE.



ROLAND T. OAKES.



Society, the Bunker Hill Monument Association, the Young Men's Christian Union, and other organizations. He served the Worcester Northwest Agricultural Society several years as its president. He married Elizabeth R. Wait of Greenfield, Mass. She died July 10, 1878, leaving four children, Theodore, Elizabeth W., Marcia Estabrook and Helen Reed Jones. He was married the second time Feb. 16, 1881 to Mrs. Marcia E. Dutton of Boston. Their home is at Corey Hill in Brookline.

FREDERICK E. PROCTOR, son of Joseph H. Proctor, was born in Athol, Jan. 4, 1855. He attended school until the age of fifteen, when he went to Boston and entered the employ of Jones, McDuffee & Stratton. After spending a number of years in the office, he travelled extensively through the western and southern states and went abroad twice in the interest of the firm. He was given an interest in the business in 1884, and became a partner in the firm in 1887, in which he has continued to the present time. He was married in 1877 to Sarah Pierce Fenno of Revere. She died Feb. 5, 1882, and he married for his second wife Martha Cunningham of Newtonville, June 1, 1887. He has six children, two daughters and four sons. One of the daughters is a member of the senior class of the Newtonville High School and the eldest son is a student at Cornell University.

WILSON HORATIO LEE, son of Joseph Lee was born in Hardwick, May 3, 1852. His mother died when he was two years of age, and he came to live with his grandmother in Athol, which was his home until nineteen years old,

when he left Athol to take a position as canvasser for a directory publisher. His education was received in the Athol Schools and one term at New Salem Academy. He was so successful in his work as a canvasser that in two years, in 1873, he formed a partnership with Wm. H. Price and purchased the directory rights in Bridgeport Conn., where they opened a publishing office. A year later they purchased the New Haven directory and moved their office to that city. The business has grown until the Price & Lee Co. publish more directories than any other firm in the United States. The firm do their own printing and binding, and employ about one hundred and twenty-five hands. This extensive business has been built up by energy, accuracy and fair dealing, and Mr. Lee has been a prominent factor in its success. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Quinnipiac and Pequot Clubs of New Haven, Poquaig Club of Athol, New Haven Typothetae and New Haven Chamber of Commerce and is actively associated with other social and business societies. He is serving on his second term as Police Commissioner of New Haven, and was for two years president of the Worcester Northwest Agricultural Society, which he has rendered valuable assistance. He married Orianna Lewis, daughter of Henry Lewis of Athol, Feb. 10, 1875. They have one daughter, Miss Prudence.

ROLAND T. OAKES was born in Athol in 1835. At the age of eighteen years he commenced to learn the mercantile business as clerk for Thorpe & Parmenter. After serving as clerk he was engaged in business in Athol for

several years with the late D. A. Newton, under the firm name of Oakes & Newton, their store being in a block that occupied the site of the present Starr Hall building. He was actively interested in the affairs of the lower village, and conferred the names upon the streets of the village then existing. In the fall of 1861 he removed to Chicopee, where he continued in the mercantile business under the firm names of Oakes, Bragg & Co., and Roland T. Oakes & Co. He remained in business in Chicopee, with the exception of eight years when he was purchasing agent for the Ames Manufacturing Co., until 1885 when he removed to Holyoke to engage in the electrical business. This has grown to a large and successful business, occupying one of the best stores in Holyoke and carrying the largest stock of electrical supplies at wholesale and retail in the state outside of Boston. In 1893 the firm became a corporation under the state laws as The Roland T. Oakes Co., with Mr. Oakes as president and treasurer. The company has been extensively engaged in constructing electrical plants in various places, and employ a large force of men for the purpose. Mr Oakes has been a member of the city council of Holyoke, serving for 1889 and 1890. He has been for many years deeply interested in Sunday School work, and was superintendent of the Sunday School of the Third Congregational church of Chicopee from 1867 to 1885 with the exception of one year. He is now superintendent of the First Congregational Sunday School of Holyoke, having served in that position nine years, making twenty-six years that he has officiated as superintendent of

Sunday Schools. He married Ellen E. Baker of Athol, Nov. 30, 1854. She died May 5, 1857, and he was married the second time to Mrs. Betsey Snow of Hardwick, Mass. in 1859.

CHARLES W. CHENEY, only son of C. Warren Cheney, was born in Boston, Nov. 7, 1857. The first five or six years of his life were passed in Boston, and from that time his childhood and youth was spent in Athol where he received his education. He went to Boston, May 1, 1876, and began his career as apprentice with Joseph T. Brown & Co., apothecaries on Washington and Bedford Streets, his salary the first year being fifty dollars. He remained there three years, and then entered the store of J. P. T. Percival apothecary, then located in the front of of Young's Hotel, where he remained a year, and in June, 1880 engaged with T. Metcalf & Co., apothecaries at 39 Tremont Street. In 1883 Mr. Cheney accepted a position with the company engaged in the manufacture of Mellin's Food. In order to acquire a more complete knowledge of chemistry he attended the lectures of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, and graduated in the spring of 1883, with the degree of Ph. G.

The works of the Doliber-Goodale Company, of which Mr. Cheney is vice president and a director, occupy seven large buildings on Central Wharf, while the offices of the company are in a fine structure on Atlantic Avenue and India Street. He is superintendent of the works, which employ over one hundred men, and also has the general management of the advertising department. In 1890 he





CHARLES W. CHENEY.



was sent to London for the company which resulted in largely increased business for the company in foreign lands. He is a member of the Algonquin Club of Boston, the Boston Druggists' Association, Riverdale Casino, Brookline, and the Boston Commandery and St. Paul's Chapter of Masons. He was married June 15, 1887 to Miss Flora Hutchinson of Cambridge. They have three children, two sons and a daughter. Their home is in Brookline.

HENRY M. PHILLIPS, son of Alonzo D. and Mary A. (Robinson) Phillips, was born in Athol, Aug. 11, 1845, his father being at that time landlord of the Pequog House. He is descended from the Rev. George Phillips, who came to America in 1630, and was the first minister of Watertown, Mass. His education aside from the public schools, was received at Deerfield Academy and the Military University of Norwich, Vt. He was but a lad of sixteen when the war broke out, but his ardor led him to enlist in the Seventh Squadron of Rhode Island Cavalry, and later he served in the Fourth Massachusetts Cavalry. His ready capacity and efficiency soon won for him a lieutenant's commission, and gave him constant staff duty during his term of service. He served as Assistant Provost Marshal of the Tenth Army Corps, and was at several times on the staffs of Generals Birney, A. H. Terry and Weitzel. He began business life as private secretary to Hon. Henry Alexander, Jr., then Mayor of Springfield, immediately after his discharge from the army. In 1871 he was appointed deputy collector in the United States internal revenue service and assistant assessor of the Tenth Massa-

chusetts District. The same year he organized the firm of Phillips, Mowry & Co., for the manufacture of steam-heating apparatus, in which he has been engaged since, his firm being succeeded in 1876 by a corporation under the title of the Phillips Manufacturing Co., of which he is the President. He is also a director of the Second National Bank of Springfield, of the Springfield Five Cents Savings Bank, the Hampden Loan and Trust Company, and has been a director of the Springfield Board of Trade since its organization. He served on the staff of Gov. William Washburn, and also on that of Governor Talbot. Probably no native of Athol ever filled more positions of public honor and trust than Mr. Phillips. He commenced his public career as a member of the Springfield City Council, in which he served two years. In 1880 and 1881, he represented Springfield in the lower house of the Legislature; in 1883, '84 and '85 he was mayor of Springfield; in 1886 and 1887 a member of the State Senate for the First Hampden District, and in 1894 he was elected as treasurer and receiver-general of the State, and was re-elected in 1895, but resigned the office in April of that year to accept the secretaryship of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company.

JOEL D. MILLER was born in Athol, October 10, 1837 the son of Isaac and Asenath Miller. His early education was received in the public schools of Athol and at Powers Academy in Bernardston. From the Academy he entered Williams College and graduated with high honors in the class of 1864. He taught school for a year in

Jewett, N. Y., and then for nearly two years was principal of the Athol High school, which position he left to assume charge of the Field High school in Leominster, and was its principal for twenty-five years. He was ordained to the ministry in 1866, but was never a candidate for settlement. He has been editor and proprietor of the Leominster Enterprise upwards of ten years, was a member of the Leominster School Committee for six years, and has been a member of the public library committee over twenty-five years. Mr. Miller has been an active worker in the Republican party all his life, and although not ambitious for political distinction his popularity was so general that in 1893 he was induced to be a candidate for State Senator from his district. He was elected and re-elected the two succeeding years serving, in the Senate for the years 1894, '95 and '96. He was soon recognized as the most interesting speaker of that body, and one of its most important members, serving as chairman of the most important Senate committees. It was mainly through his efforts that Fitchburg secured one of the new normal schools. In 1895 he was appointed a member of the state board of education, which position he now holds. Mr. Miller was married July 18, 1865 to Miss Maria Sanderson of Athol.

FREDERIC E. STRATTON, son of Joseph and Alice W. (Mann) Stratton, was born in Athol, July 5, 1847, and attended the public schools of the town until sixteen years of age, when, with the reluctant consent of his parents he went West, stopping for a while in the oil regions of

Pennsylvania, and continuing his trip into Illinois. After a little more than two years he returned to Athol and prepared for college at the High School and Shelburne Falls Academy and entered Williams College in 1867. He maintained a good standing in his class during the course, carrying off the first prize in mathematics during the sophomore year, and graduated in 1871. While at Williams he was chosen one of a party of six who went to Central America on a scientific expedition, the experiences and discoveries of which are recorded in "Life and Nature under the Tropics," published by D. Appleton & Co. After graduating he taught a private school in Warwick, Mass., where he became acquainted with Miss Mary T. Goddard, step-daughter of the late Rev. John Goldsbury, whom he married March 14, 1874. In 1872 he accepted the position of principal of the Orange High School, was principal of New Salem Academy from 1874 to 1877, and of Powers Institute at Bernardston for the two succeeding years. In 1879 he went to Boston and passed the supervisors examination, after which he substituted in various schools in the city and suburban High schools for nearly four years, when he accepted the principalship of Davenport, Iowa, High School in 1883, then the largest High school in the state of Iowa, where he remained until 1892. While in Davenport many of the educational associations and other organizations of his city and state called upon him to occupy positions of honor and influence. He was for five years president of the Davenport Y. M. C. A., was the first president of the Secondary Section of the



SETH TWICHELL.





State Teachers' Association, and a member of the Educational Council. In 1891 he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the Illinois Wesleyan University of Bloomington Ill. In 1892 he accepted the principalship of the academy connected with Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., where he now resides. He is deacon and trustee of the First Congregational Church, and is prominent in other organizations of the town of which he is a worthy and honored citizen. Mr. Stratton's picture appears in the educational chapter.

SETH TWICHELL son of William and Susanna Twichell was born in Athol, July 10, 1822. During his early life he worked on a farm and run a saw mill at South Athol. In 1846 he moved to Fitchburg and worked at the carpenter's trade for two years, after which, in 1848, he commenced moving buildings, which business he has continued for half a century, and in which he attained such a reputation that his services were sought in all parts of the country. One of his first ventures was the moving of the Fitchburg hotel a large brick structure. He remained in Fitchburg five years, and then went to Worcester, where he carried on business for seventeen years. Among the important buildings that he has moved are the State House at Columbia, S. C., which was done in 1854. The building, one hundred and thirty-seven feet long and sixty-two feet wide, was removed a distance of one hundred and sixty feet, and was done without any injury to the structure and with the chimnies standing. Another large building was the Fort William Henry hotel at Lake George.

New York, three hundred and twenty-five feet long, over forty feet wide and four stories in height, with a dining hall extending at right angles one hundred and thirty-five feet, three stories high; the whole structure was raised fourteen and one-half feet. Other places in which he has successfully moved large and important buildings, many of them of brick, are Worcester, Boston, New Bedford, Philadelphia, Pa., Chester, Pa., New London, Conn., Fitchburg, Leominster, Keene, N. H., and many other places.

Mr. Twichell has made his home in Fitchburg for many years, and owns extensive and valuable tracts of land and buildings in that city. He has been a special police officer for over thirty years, is a member of the Fitchburg Board of Trade, the Fruit Growing Association and the Worcester North Agricultural Society. He has never taken much interest in political affairs, having voted but once in his life, which was in the days of the abolition party. He married Phebe O. Farnsworth, daughter of Asa Farnsworth of Athol in 1845, by whom he had one child. Mrs. Twichell died Aug. 8, 1855, and he was married again in 1856 to Martha C. Whitney, by whom he had three children. She died in 1885 and Oct. 12, 1886 he married Emma S. Merriam. They have one son.

DR. MAURICE H. RICHARDSON, son of Nathan H. Richardson, was born in Athol, Dec. 31, 1851. His parents moved to Fitchburg when he was six months old. He attended the Fitchburg schools, fitted for college in the Fitchburg High School, and entered Harvard College in 1869, from which he graduated in 1873. He began the





JOSIAH W. FLINT.

study of medicine in the office of Dr. Peirson of Salem in 1873, and entered the medical school of Harvard University in 1874, from which he graduated in 1877. He was surgical house pupil at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1876, and resigned that position to be assistant in anatomy to Dr. Porter who was the Demonstrator of Anatomy. He dissected for the lectures of Oliver Wendell Holmes, until Mr. Holmes retired from the school, about 1882, and was then made Demonstrator of Anatomy, in which position he continued until 1888 or 1889 when he became Assistant Professor of Anatomy. In 1894 he was transferred from the anatomical to the surgical department, and is now Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery. He now holds the position of surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and is consulting surgeon to the following institutions: Carney Hospital, New England Hospital for Women and Children, the Free Hospital for Women, the Public Hospital at Deer Island, the State Hospital at Tewksbury, the State Farm at Bridgewater, the Melrose Hospital, Fitchburg Hospital, etc. He is secretary of the American Surgical Association, and a member of several surgical and medical societies. On the 10th of July, 1879, he married Margaret White Peirson of Salem and has six children.

JOSIAH W. FLINT was born in Athol, on Chestnut Hill, Nov. 4, 1839. He lived at home on the farm until fifteen years of age, attending the district schools. When sixteen years old he went to Hardwick to live with a sister, where he also attended school, and then took charge of his

sister's farm for nine years. He then carried on the meat business for a year or two, and then purchased a farm in Enfield, Mass., which town has since been his home. After farming a few years he sold his farm and then engaged in the lumber business in which he has continued to the present time. For many years he has been in partnership with Hon. D. B. Gillett of Enfield, and they have carried on an extensive lumbering business all through Hampshire county and southeastern Franklin, employing from fifty to seventy-five men. Mr. Flint has been prominently identified with town affairs in Enfield, having been selectman since 1891, was road commissioner twelve years, constable eighteen years and tax collector nine years. He has also been one of the Deputy Sheriffs of Hampshire County since 1891, and has been frequently called upon by the Boston & Albany Railroad Co. to appraise fire damages. He has been married three times, his first marriage being Dec. 27, 1865, to Emma E. Taft of Athol. She died Aug. 12, 1891, and in 1894 he married Martha Maria Shoals of Easthampton. She died the same year, and he was married a third time to Charlotte Maria Shoals, March 4, 1896.

## CHAPTER XX.

### EARLY AND LATER INDUSTRIES.

The artisan with cunning skill  
Compels the idle flood  
To bow obsequious to his will,  
And labor for his good.



WATER power along Millers River, Mill Brook, Tully Brook, and other streams in the south part of the town, have from early days of the town been utilized for manufacturing purposes, until Athol has become conspicuous as one of the manufacturing towns of the State. The first record we have in regard to any mill is an agreement made by a committee of the Proprietors of Poquoaig and Samuel Kendall, Jr., of Woburn, May 24, 1737, whereby Mr. Kendall was to receive fifty acres of land as part pay or encouragement for building a saw mill. The next year, Oct. 18, 1738, the Proprietors made a grant of sixty acres of land "to Mr. Samuel Kendall for building a corn mill and keeping it in repair for ye space of ten years, so as to grind for ye Above said Proprietors."

Rev. S. F. Clarke in his centennial discourse says, "It is a matter of doubt where the saw mill or grist mill was first erected." As near as can be ascertained the first grist mill was built near where the Richardson machine shop is now located, and it is believed that the saw mill was erected near the location of the present match shop on Mill Brook. The first grist mill must have been given up for some reason for at a Proprietors' meeting held Jan. 3, 1759, article three of the warrant was to see "Whether the Proprietors will give any encouragement to any suitable person or persons, or be at any expense towards building a good Grist Mill in said Pequig, provided a suitable stream can be obtained whereon to build one—and it passed in the affirmative." It was also "Voted to raise four shillings lawful money on each Right for the use and encouragement of any Person that shall build a good and sufficient Grist Mill at Mill Brook, so called, provided the said person shall come under proper obligation to have the same running on or before the 18th Day of October next ensuing and to keep the same in due repair for the space of fifteen years next coming—and to give due attendance at said mill, two Days in the Week if business requires, during said term, allowing for extraordinary occurrences." The place that this second grist mill was built was undoubtedly the location near the Richardson machine shop, from which place it was moved about 1768 to the present location of the Ethan Lord grist mill. Those who owned and operated the mill before it came into the possession of Ethan Lord were Simeon and Ezra Fish,



William and Augustus Newhall, Joshua Newhall and Joseph Richardson.

At a town meeting held Jan. 11, 1775 an article appears in the warrant as follows: "To see if the Town will choose a Committee to look out for, and to see if they can find a good Clothier to come and settle in Town so that the town may be the Better Enabled to carry on their own Manufacturies." Under this article it was voted to choose a committee, said committee to do the service of getting a clothier gratis. In 1791, according to the Historian Whitney, there was in the town four grist mills, six saw mills, one fulling mill and one trip hammer. The trip hammer was located near what is now known as Pine Dale, where there was also a grist mill. Previous to 1798 Justice Ketcham had mills in the south part of the town, and in 1801 Levi Lovering had a fulling mill on what is now Freedom Street.

Early in the present century quite an impetus was given the manufacturing interests of Athol by the introduction of several new kinds of business into the town. Before the close of the last century David Lilley was making nails in a shop near the present silk mill. About 1800 he sold the premises to Perley Sibley and Stephen Hammond who established a scythe factory, which for more than half a century was a flourishing industry. Sumner, Gideon, Paul and Willard Sibley were engaged with their father in the business, which was also carried on by Russell Smith for many years. Eliphalet Thorpe came to Athol from Dorchester, in 1812, and bought a paper mill

on Freedom Street then owned by a man by the name of Leland. He manufactured paper for more than a third of a century, and the business was also carried on by his sons, Albert and Fenno, until about 1868 when it was discontinued. Greenfield and Amherst newspapers were printed on paper made at this mill.

The cotton factory was built in 1811, where business has been carried on to the present time by various owners. In 1837 the factory contained ten hundred and twenty-four spindles, employed ten males and forty-five females and turned out three hundred and sixteen thousand yards of cotton goods. At the Centre, Paul Morse established a tannery on Mill Brook in 1807, which was carried on by himself and his son Laban until 1845, when the works were destroyed by a freshet. Prescott Jones also had a tannery on Mill Brook, on the premises now owned by Geo. S. Brewer, which was operated many years by himself and also by his sons Frederick and Prescott, Jr. About 1816 Timothy Hoar commenced to develop the water power at the corner of Main and Pleasant streets, and engaged in the manufacture of sleighs, and between the years 1833 and 1835 he built a dam and erected a factory on Mill Brook, on the site of the Morse factory, and about 1842 with William Fletcher and Jonathan Kidder built a dam and saw mill on the site of the Ellis factory.

We shall not attempt in this chapter to give a history of all the various manufacturing enterprises of the town as many of them are described in connection with personal sketches of their founders in other chapters.

## BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

The manufacture of boots and shoes has been the leading industry of the town for more than half a century. In 1831 Frederick Jones added to his business of tanning that of the manufacture of heavy shoes and brogans. Some light shoes had been made previously in Athol, but only in a small way. Mr. Jones started the industry on a larger plan. In 1832 he enlarged his operations and took his first lot of shoes to New York for sale, teaming them over the road to Hartford, and then by steamer. Four years afterwards the manufacture was changed from shoes to boots and the business finally became one of the important industries of the town. The tannery and boot factory were operated by Mr. Jones and his partners until about 1872.

In 1834 Ozi Kendall commenced the manufacture of boots in a little shop on Main Street adjoining the house in which he lived. As the business increased he took in partners and the firm became Ozi Kendall & Co., the fame of whose boots extended all over New England and the West. At one time they turned out calf boots to the value of seventy thousand dollars a year. Mr. Kendall retired from the business at the end of fifty years, and the other members of the firm continued three years longer, until 1887, when the business was closed up.

There is no one family that occupies so prominent a position in the manufacturing annals of Athol for the last half century as the Lee family. The father, William Dexter Lee, was descended from John Lee, or Leigh, as

the name was originally spelled, who came to this country in 1634 and settled in what is now Ipswich, Mass. The family is said to have been noted for ability and energy. The family of William Dexter Lee was large, there having been twelve children born to Mr. Lee and his wife, Lydia H. The family was in humble circumstances, and each member was dependent on his own resources at an early age. The boys of the family who grew to manhood were William Dexter, James M., Merritt, Charles Milton, John Howard and Solon Wetherbee.

CHARLES MILTON LEE, who for many years was the largest manufacturer and the leading figure in the up-building of the town was born May 23, 1828. He commenced the manufacture of shoes in 1850 with a capital of about one hundred dollars, going on foot to Boston to purchase his stock, and returning to his father's farm among the Bears Den hills, where he made his first shoes, a few dozen pairs, which were sold to the merchants of this and adjoining towns. During the first year the goods made and sold by him brought about six hundred dollars. His first real shop was on Exchange street, where he employed about twenty-five hands, and Mr. Lee himself did all the selling of his goods, travelling in northern Vermont and New Hampshire with his shoes packed away, at first in an old box, and later in a fine two-horse wagon. In 1858 he formed a partnership with his two brothers, John Howard and Solon W., which continued for ten years, meanwhile establishing a business house in Boston for the sale of their goods. In 1869 this partnership was dissolved,



CHARLES M. LEE.



C. M. Lee continuing the manufacture in Athol, while his brothers carried on the business in Boston. He year by year increased his business until in four large shops he was employing about six hundred hands, and turning out goods to the amount of nearly half a million dollars annually. This business, which was for many years the great industry of Athol, was built up by the indomitable energy and enterprise of Mr. Lee, who believed in every fibre of his being in industry and persistent effort. He cared nothing for public honors and devoted himself steadfastly to his business and his family and home. He married Amanda M. Simonds of Lyme, N. H., by whom he had seven children, George M., Everett, W. Starr, Angie, Auburn, Bayard and Carrie, who married Chas. H. Brown. Of these all but Angie and Bayard are living. He was married a second time to Miss Minnie Howe of Post Mills, Vt., by whom he had two daughters, Marion and Minnie. Mr. Lee died June 29, 1896. Since his death the business has been continued by his sons, George M., W. Starr and Auburn, under the firm name of C. M. Lee Sons.

JOHN HOWARD LEE was born in Athol, Aug. 15, 1834. He attended the public schools of the town, and the Academy in Townsend, Vt., for one term. When a boy he worked in the pail factory of Jonathan Wheeler, and was clerk for a year in the store of Lee & Bassett. He engaged in the manufacture of shoes with his brothers, Chas. M. and Solon W., in 1858, which was continued for ten years, when the partnership was dissolved, and he continued the business in Boston. He was also in the shoe

business for many years with his brother Merritt. He invested largely in real estate in Boston and also engaged in other business, in all of which he has been eminently successful. He married Miss Abbie M. Lamb, daughter of James Lamb of Athol, Jan. 4, 1858. She died Oct. 31, 1859. He was married a second time, Oct. 9, 1862, to Sarah E. Emmons of Boston. They have had five children, Carlton Howard, Evelyn, Bertha, John Howard, Jr., who died when four years old, and Robert E. Mr. Lee is a director of the Continental National Bank of Boston, Athol National Bank, and the Merchants' and Clerks' Savings Bank of Toledo, Ohio. He is a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Co., St. John's Lodge of Masons, and other organizations.

SOLON W. LEE was born in Athol, July 11, 1836. He attended the Athol schools, and the High school of Petersham three terms. He engaged in the shoe manufacturing business with his brothers, Chas. M. and J. Howard, in 1858, and when the partnership was dissolved in 1869, and the business divided, he with his brother Howard took the Boston part of the business, where he remained until 1871, when he sold out and returned to Athol and engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes in which he continued until 1883 when he went into the lumber business, in which he has remained to the present time. Mr. Lee has served the town as selectman and assessor. He was married in 1859 to Martha A. Coville of Templeton. They had three children, Myra A., Cora H. and Mary H. The latter, who married C. J. Kratt, is the only one now living.



MERRITT LEE was born March 22, 1825. He was employed for a number of years in the shoe shop of Jones & Baker at the upper village, and in 1861 with his brothers, established the firm of M. L. Lee & Co., for the manufacture of men's, youths' and boys' kip boots, brogans and plow shoes. The business was carried on for thirty-five years, when he retired in 1896. His shop for three or four years was in the building known as the Pitts block on Exchange Street, and later in the block now occupied by W. H. Brock & Co., opposite the depot, and in Union block at the upper village. In 1879 the firm employed upwards of one hundred hands, and the annual sales amounted to one hundred thousand dollars. He married Ellen E. Fessenden, of Guilford Vt., in May, 1852. Their children are Walter M., Geo. H., Wm. D. and Ellen F.

WILLIAM D. LEE, JR., was born Aug. 7, 1816. He was engaged for some time in the manufacture of women's, and children's shoes with John S. Lewis at the upper village. He was for a number of years in business with Samuel Lee in a general country store, the firm being Lee & Co., and was also engaged with John Lewis in the lumber business at Warwick, and was an extensive dealer in real estate. He was a member of the board of selectmen in 1848 and 1849. On June 27, 1841, he married Sarah H. Munsell of Winchester, N. H. They had two daughters, Clara the wife of O. A. Fay, and Anna, who married Elmer Merriam. Mr. Lee died Nov. 29, 1869.

JAMES M. LEE, the only one of the Lee brothers not engaged in the shoe business, was born March 2, 1822.

From early boyhood until his death he kept a livery stable, and was an extensive dealer in horses. He invested largely in real estate, and his judgment in business matters was excellent. He was trustee of the Athol Savings Bank, and a member of its investment committee, also a director of the Athol National Bank, in which he was a large stockholder. He served the town as assessor and road surveyor, and was one of the founders of the Worcester Northwest Agricultural Society. He accumulated a large property, the result of shrewd business management and good investments. He married Rachel Dexter of Royalston in 1847. They had two children, Warren D. and Mabel. Mr. Lee died Nov. 10, 1893.

ATHOL SHOE CO. F. W. Breed of Lynn commenced operations in November, 1887 in a large brick factory, one hundred and fifty feet long, sixty feet wide and three stories high, which was built that year for his occupancy at the upper village at a cost of over twenty thousand dollars, in which he did business five years. Employment was given to about three hundred hands, and nearly four hundred thousand dollars worth of goods were produced annually.

HILL & GREENE. This firm moved a part of their business from Beverly to Athol in February, 1889, and occupied the large shop that had been erected on Riverbend Street by the Citizen's Building Co., where they employed about one hundred and fifty hands and turned out about twelve hundred pairs of shoes a day. They bought the shop formerly occupied by the Athol Shoe Co., to which they moved their business in January, 1893, and are now employing about two hundred hands.





*L. S. Starratt*





ELI G. GREENE, the resident partner of the firm, was born in Cambridge, Mass., July 11, 1854. He engaged in the wholesale shoe business in Boston in 1882 and began manufacturing shoes in Beverly in 1886. Mr. Greene takes a deep interest in the affairs of his adopted town and its social organizations, and is a member of the Republican town committee. He married Miss Grace Putnam Kilham, daughter of Capt. Daniel A. Kilham of Beverly, Jan. 22, 1890, and came to Athol in February, 1891.

LEROY S. STARRETT was born in China, Maine, April 25, 1836. He is of Scotch descent, and one of twelve children of Daniel D. and Anna Starrett. He was brought up on a farm and attended the public schools but two or three months in the year. He had a natural taste for mechanical pursuits, and when a boy spent his pennies for small tools, such as knives, gimlets, chisels, planes, etc., with which he delighted to work. When seventeen years of age he left his home and came to Massachusetts where he engaged in farming, and from 1861 to 1864 carried on a stock farm of six hundred acres in Newburyport, Mass., called "Turkey Hill Farm." At the same time that he was successfully engaged in carrying on this farm he displayed his inventive genius in the mechanical line by taking out several patents in 1864, and the next year sold his farming interest and started a machine shop in Newburyport, where he employed several skilled mechanics. In the spring of 1868 he came to Athol and put his business into the Athol Machine Company, which was incorporated especially for the manufacture of his inventions, prominent

among which was the American meat-chopper. He was the general agent and superintendent of this company, and was connected with it until 1878, when he resigned and made arrangements to manufacture some of his inventions on his own account, having taken out a number of patents. One of the inventions that entered into his new enterprise was the combination square, and others were surface gauges, steel rules, caliper's etc. He started his business in 1880, employing ten hands. The usefulness of his inventions and the thorough manner in which the articles were made soon gave his goods great popularity among mechanics and established his business on a solid foundation. The quarters in which he commenced were soon outgrown, and he purchased a new building eighty by forty feet, three stories high, and equipped it with the most improved machinery. This soon proved insufficient to accommodate his rapidly increasing business, and in three years he added a story and a half to the building, and in 1894 built an addition one hundred and sixty by forty feet, with three stories and a basement, and a brick annex seventy-five by forty-two feet. These buildings are furnished with all modern improvements and everything for the comfort and convenience of the employees. In 1887 he bought out the Fay Caliper Manufacturing plant of Springfield, and in 1894 a Providence plant, engaged in the manufacture of milling cutters, and added them to the Athol establishment, making one of the best plants engaged in the manufacture of fine mechanical tools in the country, that gives employment to one hundred and eighty-







GEORGE D. BATES.

five skilled workmen. In 1882 Mr. Starrett visited Europe where he established agencies in England, France, Belgium and Germany that have made his productions about as well known in Europe as in the United States. The business is conducted under the name of the L. S. Starrett Co. Mr. Starrett devotes his whole time and energy to his business, and has not been tempted to turn aside into politics or public life. He is a member of the Methodist church of which he is one of the trustees. He was married April 20, 1861, to Lydia W. Bartlett, daughter of Henry A. and Hannah Bartlett, of Newburyport, a descendant of Josiah Bartlett, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Mrs. Starret died Feb. 3, 1878. He has four children living.

GEORGE D. BATES, son of Alonzo and Eliza Bates, was born in South Deerfield, April 2, 1846. He attended the common schools and High school of his native village, and commenced his life work at the age of sixteen years. From eighteen to twenty-one years of age he was employed in the wallet shop at South Deerfield. In 1867 he went to Montague and formed a copartnership with the late George K. Palmer, for the manufacture of wallets, under the firm name of Palmer & Bates, employing about thirty hands. In 1871, desiring a more central field of operations the business was removed to Athol, and temporary quarters were fitted up for it in Lord's block on Exchange Street. In the fall of that year the firm occupied the large and commodious factory built for them by the citizens of Athol near the Lower Village

common. In 1879 the firm of Palmer & Bates was dissolved, and the firm of Bates Brothers was formed, consisting of James P., George D. and Charles A. Bates. They commenced business in a building near the Upham Machine shop. The business soon outgrew the quarters it occupied, and in June, 1882, a factory was built on the Island, near Main Street. Additions have been made at various times, the latest and most extensive being the improvements of 1897. The business has now been incorporated as the Bates Brothers Company of which Geo. D. Bates is treasurer and resident manager. Upwards of two hundred hands are now employed. In addition to looking after the interests of this extensive business Mr. Bates is prominently identified with various other business and financial interests of the town, and his worth as a citizen and business man is shown by the important positions he holds. He is president of the Athol Co-Operative Bank, vice president and director of the Millers River National Bank, president of the Athol Board of Trade, president of the Athol and Orange Electric Railway Co., and a member of the school committee. He married Hattie M. Warner, daughter of H. W. Warner of Greenfield in 1869. She died in 1876, leaving one daughter, Maud, now the wife of A. N. Ellis. He married a second time Miss Abbie J. Sheldon, June 9, 1880, by whom he had two daughters. She died March 17, 1897. He married Anna M. Tenney, Aug. 31, 1898.

CHARLES A. BATES, son of Alonzo and Eliza Bates, was born in South Deerfield, Dec. 2, 1848. His educa-



CHARLES A. BATES.







ARTHUR F. TYLER.



tion was obtained in the schools of that village, and at Deerfield Academy. He learned the wallet business in South Deerfield and came to Athol with the Palmer & Bates Co., in 1871. In 1879 he became a member of the firm of Bates Bros., successors to Palmer & Bates, and was the energetic superintendent of the works until his death; his practical knowledge of the business, good judgment and tireless energy being of great value in the building up of this important industry of the town. Although of a quiet and genial nature, he was a man of strong convictions, and was especially tenacious in his political views. He was a member of the Democratic town committee for a number of years, and was an active worker for his party. He was a member of Acme Lodge Knights of Honor, and a charter member of the Poquaig Club in the prosperity of which he was deeply interested. He married Josephine Pratt, Nov. 23, 1875. They had three children. Mr. Bates died Dec 3, 1894.

ARTHUR F. TYLER, one of Athol's most successful manufacturers, was born in the historic town of Lexington, March 12, 1852. His father died when Arthur was eleven years of age, and he went to New Hampshire on to a farm, where he remained a year, when he returned to Lexington and attended school. He first came to Athol in December, 1866, and remained until the following fall as clerk in the dry goods store of T. W. Savage at the Upper Village. When fifteen years of age he entered the works of Geo. F. Blake & Co., manufacturers of steam pumping machinery in Boston, as an apprentice, where he

served an apprenticeship of three years, and continued in their employ another year. After leaving this company he went to work in the repair shops of the Fitchburg Railroad at Charlestown. At this time the Westinghouse air brakes were being introduced, and Mr Tyler had charge of putting these upon the engines running between Boston and Fitchburg. He remained in this business four years, and came to Athol in April, 1876, and commenced the manufacture of window blinds with Wallace Cheney in the old Cheney Mill. At the expiration of a year he purchased his partner's interest in the business which he has continued to carry on to the present time. He continued to manufacture window blinds for seven years in the old mill, running by water power, and at the end of that time had increased the number of workmen in his employ from five or six which he had when he commenced business to sixteen. In January 1883 he bought the tract of land known as the Estabrook lot on Main street and commenced to build a new factory to run by steam power. He also commenced the manufacture of window sash. His business gradually increased, and in 1890 he bought out the window frame department of the Kennebec Framing & Lumber Co., of Fairfield, Me., and removed it to Athol. The original factory was thirty-two by seventy-two feet, but additions have been made until the capacity has more than doubled, and he has one of the best equipped factories of the kind in New England. He has employed upwards of eighty hands. He also has an office and store in Haymarket Square in Boston. Mr. Tyler, in addition to his manufac-





C. FRED RICHARDSON.

turing business, is interested in many of the business and financial enterprises of the town. He is a director of the Millers River National Bank, trustee of the Athol Savings Bank, and one of the owners of the Athol and Orange Street Railway. In 1895 he served as selectman, and is chief engineer of the fire department. He is a member of all the Odd Fellow and Masonic organizations of the town, of Acme Lodge Knights of Honor and of the Congregational church. He was married May 12, 1875, to Mary Baker Cheney, daughter of J. Munroe Cheney of Athol.

C. FRED RICHARDSON, son of Nathaniel Richardson, was born in Athol, Sept, 28, 1839. He attended the public schools of the town until about eighteen years of age, when he went into his father's shop and learned the machinist's trade. He was for four or five years in the sewing machine shops at Orange, and a year in the rattan shop at Fitchburg, and the rest of his life has been spent in Athol. In 1870 he succeeded to the business of his father, which was a general machine jobbing business, and has since added to it the manufacture of architects' and carpenters' levels and transits, and also deals extensively in bicycles, his son Fred R., being in company with him. Taking an active interest in the business and financial affairs of the town, he has been called upon to serve in various capacities. He has been a member of the board of selectmen eight years, represented this district in the Legislature of 1884, and on the resignation of John D. Holbrook as town clerk in 1897, he was appointed to fill the

vacancy, which position he now holds. He is a trustee of the Athol Savings Bank, secretary and treasurer of the Athol Co-Operative Bank, and secretary and treasurer of the Citizens Building Co. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and Knights of Honor, and has been Master of Orange Lodge of Masons. He married Celia C. Lamb, Sept. 21, 1862. They have two children, Fred R., who is in company with him, and Carl.

HERBERT L. HAPGOOD, son of Lyman W. Hapgood, was born in Athol, Feb 5, 1850. His education was obtained in the public schools of the town and at New Salem Academy. After leaving the Academy he went to Winchendon and spent about two years in the shops of Baxter D. Whitney, learning the machinist's trade. He returned to Athol and in 1874 formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Almond Smith, to carry on the match business, established by his father. The firm was known as Hapgood & Smith, and did an extensive business until 1882, when they sold the plant to the Diamond Match Co. They conducted the business for that company four years, and then bought the plant and continued the business until 1892, when they sold again to the same company. While engaged in the match business Mr. Hapgood's inventive genius added much to its value and prosperity, through his improvements in machinery and methods of handling. Among his inventions was a sand papering machine that has been used quite extensively. Since retiring from manufacturing, Mr. Hapgood has been engaged to some extent in the lumber business, and has also devoted much time to town affairs. He



HERBERT L. HAPGOOD.









ALMOND SMITH.

has served on the board of selectmen five years, has been one of the assessors for the same length of time, and superintendent of streets three years. He is also one of the sewer commissioners, having been a member of the first board elected, under whose direction the system of sewerage was constructed. He is a member of all the Masonic and Odd Fellow organizations of the town, the Highland Firemen's Association and the Poquaig Club. In politics he has always been a Republican, and has been an active worker in the party, serving as chairman of the town committee several years. He was married Feb. 25, 1875, to Mary Josephine Proctor, daughter of Joseph Proctor, and granddaughter of one of Athol's first lawyers. They have had five children, three of whom are now living, Lyman P., Edith and Frederic H.

ALMOND SMITH was born on a farm in Petersham, Oct. 23, 1845. When he was nine years old his father died, and three years later the death of his mother broke up the home and caused the separation of the nine children then living out of the original family of eleven. He found a home in Athol first under the guardianship of Calvin Kelton. After that he lived in several families, doing chores and general work, while receiving his education, which was completed in the Athol High School. He then worked at the shoe business for ten years. November 21, 1874 he went into the match splint business in company with H. L. Hapgood, under the firm name of Hapgood & Smith. This was continued for eight years, when they sold their plant, mill and entire interest to the

Diamond Match Company. They carried on the business for the company for three years and a half when they repurchased it and continued the business for themselves for six and a half years, when they sold out again to the same company. Mr. Smith has since continued in the employ of the company, and is engaged most of the time in looking after the lumber supply. He was for about twenty-four years a member of the fire department, during a number of years of which time he was the clerk and treasurer of the board of engineers. He was also superintendent of the First Unitarian Sunday School ten years. He has been an active worker in politics, and has been a member of the Republican town committee for several years. He married Miss Sarah L. Hapgood, daughter of Lyman W. Hapgood, Dec. 29, 1870. They have one child, Miss Arline Smith, a teacher in the Hyannis High school.

HENRY R. STOWELL was born in Petersham, June 19, 1832. He received a common school education, and left home at sixteen years of age to make his way in the world. For three years he worked on farms in Amherst, Deerfield and Greenfield and then went to Indiana and Illinois, where he spent a year or two and then returned to Greenfield and engaged in the grocery business. While in Greenfield he was married in 1854 to Miss Lucina Houghton of Petersham. He carried on the grocery business for a year when he sold out and went to Tully, in Orange, where he obtained employment in the furniture factory of Pierce & Mayo. In 1860 he engaged in the manufacture of furniture with Joseph Pierce at Tully, but soon pur-



HENRY R. STOWELL.



chased the interest of his partner. In 1862, while in the midst of a good and profitable business he enlisted as a private in Co. F, 52d Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers with seven of his employees. This furnishes one of those striking exhibitions of patriotism which abounded in the Northern States in the early days of the war. The quota required of the town of Orange was lacking eight men, and unless that number would volunteer a draft must be ordered. At this crisis in affairs Mr. Stowell and his employees present themselves and make up the required number. The gate of the factory is shut down and the working jackets of the men are hung upon the walls of the shop, some of them never to be donned again, their owners laying down their lives in the far South lands. Mr. Stowell had promised his men that he would carry a musket with them, and this he did through their term of service, although he might have served in higher positions, having been for several weeks General Banks private secretary which position he might have retained. At the close of his term of service, with his surviving comrades, he returned to Tully, and resumed business at the factory where it had been left the year before. In 1865 fire destroyed his factory and all his stock of lumber, on which there was no insurance, leaving him hundreds of dollars in debt. He immediately bargained for part of another factory and resumed business, which he has continued to the present time. In 1883 he removed to Athol and purchased a fine estate on School Street, which has since been his home. He has become prominently identified with the business

and social affairs of the town, is a director of the Millers River National Bank, vice president of the Athol Savings Bank, and one of its board of investment, and has been chairman of the executive committee of the Poquaig Club since its formation. He was married the second time July 10, 1856 to Miss Ellen A. Davis of Royalston. They have three children.

ABIJAH HILL, oldest son of John C. Hill was born in Athol, Feb. 16, 1847. He attended the public schools of the town and a business college at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., for a year. His first business was running a blanket mill in Swanzey, N. H. He then was engaged in building the Eagleville and Tully blanket mills, and a blanket shop on Canal Street. He run a mill at Otter River for a year or two, and then carried on the Eagleville mill most of the time until about ten years ago. He is now engaged in farming and real estate business. He was made a Knight Templar in the Connecticut Valley Commandery at Greenfield, and was one of the organizers of the Athol Commandery. He was married Feb. 6, 1895 to Isabel Vaughn.

CHARLES L. MORSE was born in Rochester, Vt., March 26, 1849, where he lived until fourteen years of age. His grandfather, Charles Morse, and his father, Charles Morse, Jr., both served their country, the former in the war of 1812 and the latter in the war of the Rebellion, his father being killed in the battle of Gettysburg. His early life was spent in farming during the summer and lumbering in the winter season until about twenty-one years of age, when he went to Canton, Mass., where he learned the car-





ABIJAH HILL.



penter's and joiner's trade. While there he married Mariella F. Howes of that town, Nov. 30, 1873. He continued to work at his trade in Canton, until the spring of 1877, when he went to Topeka, Kansas, to work for the Atkinson, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Co. The next winter he accepted a position on the Kansas Pacific Railroad, where he had charge of the wood work on the Eastern Division of that road, until he lost a foot in the employ of that company. After a season spent in travelling among the Rocky Mountains he came East and worked for the Eureka Silk Co., until the fall of 1881 when he came to Athol as master mechanic for the Athol Silk Co., and is now superintendent of the silk business of D. E. Adams. He is the inventor of the Morse valve reseating machine, is prominently identified with the Masonic, Odd Fellows and other organizations of the town and is an earnest worker in the temperance cause.

FRANK EDWARD WING, son of Edward E. and Helen Newman Wing was born in Conway, Mass, June 27, 1865, where four generations of Wings had lived before him. He attended the public schools of Conway; was graduated from Smith Academy, Hatfield in 1882, and entered Yale College in the fall of the same year, from which he graduated in 1886. While in college he was Fence Orator, Class Historian and chairman of the "Courant" editorial board. In April 1887 he came to Athol and was employed in the office of L. S. Starrett, where he has remained ever since. In 1887 he composed the entire office and shipping force of the establishment, where now nine per-

sons are required to do the work. Mr. Wing's attention now is confined mainly to the finances and advertising of the company. He was married Sept. 28, 1892, to Miss Edith May Smith of Athol. He has been a member of the Republican town committee and president of the Athol Republican Club, and is a Justice of the Peace and Notary Public, and clerk of of the Second Unitarian society. He is a prominent member of the Masonic organizations of the town, is past High Priest of Union Royal Arch Chapter, present District Deputy Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts and Eminent Commander of Athol Commandery, Knights Templars.

LEWIS SANDERS was born in Townsend, Mass., March 15, 1842. He attended the public schools of his native town and several terms at Lawrence Academy, Groton, where he was preparing for a college course, when, his father having lost his sight, Lewis was called home to take charge of the business when seventeen years of age. In 1865, with others, he purchased the Stevens mill in Townsend and engaged extensively in lumbering. At the end of three years he had bought out his partners, and then engaged in the manufacture of kegs and barrels. His business continued to increase, and in March 1882, he moved it to Athol; employing at that time about twenty-five hands. After coming to Athol the business increased rapidly, outgrowing the buildings in which he first located, and a larger plant was erected south of the village, which at one time in its various departments gave employment to upwards of seventy-five men, the manufacture of boxes



FRANK E. WING.



CHARLES L. MORSE.



LEWIS SANDERS.



FRED R. DAVIS.



and match blocks having been added to the original business. This was discontinued in 1897, and Mr. Sanders went to Seattle, Washington, where he is engaged in the wood business. He is an Odd Fellow of long standing, and on the organization of Tully Lodge was elected its first Noble Grand, and was also the District Deputy Grand Master of this district in 1889 and 1890. He is also a member of several Masonic organizations, and was for five  
~ ~ ~ ~ years one of the engineers of the fire department. He married Ellen M. Gilchrist, a native of Lunenburg. They have one daughter, Jennie I.

FRED R. DAVIS was born in Waltham, July 4, 1856. He went through the public schools of his native town, and after graduating from the High school learned the iron founders trade and was for twelve years engaged in the construction of gas and water works. He came to Athol Jan. 1, 1883 and took the position of superintendent of the gas and water companies. He has been for several years superintendent and treasurer of the Athol Gas and Electric Company. He was married Nov. 24, 1875 to Miss Jennie M. Emerson. They have one son, Forest Davis. Mr. Davis is a member of the various Masonic organizations.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### COMMERCIAL.

"Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men."



MOST of those connected with the commercial interests of Athol, from the early days through all the years of its history, have been men of integrity and worthy business principles, and the town has been fortunate in the character of its merchants and those engaged in kindred occupations or business. Sketches of many of these have already been given in connection with other departments of this work, and this chapter will be devoted more especially to those doing business at the present day.

OSCAR T. BROOKS was born in Petersham, June 6, 1839. When two years of age his parents moved to Wendell, Mass., which was henceforth his home during his youth and early manhood. His education was obtained in the common schools of Wendell, the Winchester, N. H., High school and the New Salem Academy. In 1859 he



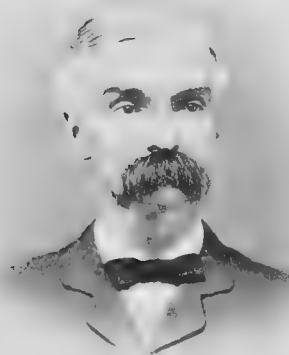
engaged in mercantile business in Wendell in company with his father and was the postmaster there several years. In the fall of 1862 he came to Athol and with the late J. M. King bought out the general country store business of P. C. Tyler, and carried on business in the store now occupied by Chas. H. Tyler for about a year and a half. In the fall of 1864 in company with J. M. King and Franklin R. Haskell he engaged in business in the store now occupied by A. R. Tower, and in 1869 in company with J. F. Packard he commenced business in the store which he has occupied to the present time. This partnership was continued for about a year when Mr. Brooks purchased the interest of his partner, and in 1870 in company with Chas. M. Sears established the firm of Brooks & Sears, which was continued until the death of Mr. Sears, Sept. 28, 1885, since which time Mr. Brooks has continued the business alone. In 1881 he served the town as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor. He is a trustee of the Athol Savings Bank, director of the Athol Co-Operative Bank and a member of the executive committee of the Board of Trade, and at the 1897 election was elected Representative to the Legislature from the First Worcester district. He is a member of the Second Advent church, and has been superintendent of its Sunday school for fifteen years or more, and is also president of the Young Men's Christian Association. On Jan. 3, 1866 he married Cornelia R. Smith, daughter of the late Abner Smith. They have had five children, only two of whom are now living, Annie and Ralph.

CHARLES M. SEARS was born in New Salem, April 4, 1842. When fifteen years of age he went to Hartford, Conn., where he was employed in a grocery store. He returned to New Salem in 1862 and engaged in the palm-leaf business until he came to Athol in May, 1866, and opened a small grocery store. In 1870 in company with O. T. Brooks, he established the firm of Brooks & Sears, which was continued without change until the death of Mr. Sears Sept. 28, 1885. Mr. Sears never held political or town office, but was for several years one of the trustees of the Methodist church of which he was one of the most loved and efficient members. He married Annie F. Chapin of Hartford, Conn., Sept 15, 1863. They had two children. Mrs. Sears died April 12, 1868, and he was married a second time to Mrs. Annis J. Smith, Nov. 10, 1870. By this marriage he had two children, a daughter and son. The daughter died in infancy, and the son, Mortimer A. Sears, is a mining engineer.

CHARLES A. CROSMAN was born in Athol, Dec. 27, 1839. He received a common school education in his native town, and attended New Salem Academy two terms. In 1860 he removed to Barre, Mass., and was a resident of that town until 1874, being engaged most of the time in the market business. In 1874 he returned to Athol and engaged in the grocery business at Athol Center with George W. Stevens in which he continued until his death, Aug. 7, 1896. He represented this district in the Legislature of 1892, and served the town as assessor two years. He was made a Mason in 1868 in Mt. Sinai Lodge of



OSCAR T. BROOKS.



CHARLES M. SEARS.



NELSON WHITCOMB.



CHARLES A. CROSMAN.



Barre, became a Chapter Mason in 1886 and was made a Sir Knight in 1889. In 1895 he was Eminent Commander of Athol Commandery Knights Templars.

NELSON WHITCOMB was born in Bolton, Mass., Feb. 1, 1814. He lived in his native town on a farm until twenty-one years of age, attending school ten weeks in the winter and the same in the summer. After leaving home he went to work in Jaffrey, N. H., and later at Harvard and Bolton. He went to Worcester and learned the trade of making plows, and then returned to Bolton and engaged in the manufacture of plows and farming, which he continued for eleven years, when he went to Clinton where he was in the livery business for ten years, and also started a passenger and express team from Clinton to Northboro. He then went to Fitchburg and was express messenger from Fitchburg to Boston for the United States and Canada Express Co., for five years, commencing in 1867. He was proprietor of the Leominster Hotel for two years and a half and came to Athol in 1874 and engaged in the coal business which he carried on until his death, April 6, 1895. He married Elvira Holman of Bolton in October, 1837, and their golden wedding was happily observed in 1887. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Second Unitarian church.

HARDING R. BARBER was born in Warwick, Mass., Dec. 20, 1839. He was educated in the public schools of his native town, and at the age of seventeen years commenced his commercial life as clerk in a country store at Erving. He came to Athol in 1857 and entered the em-

ploy of Alvin Houghton, who had stores where the City Hotel now is. He was also clerk in stores at Greenfield and South Royalston, and in August, 1862, enlisted in Co. E, 53d Regiment, Mass. Volunteers and participated in the various battles and engagements of his regiment until it was discharged. Soon after leaving the army he returned to Athol and purchased a harness business which he has continued to the present time. He also at one time did quite an extensive business in the manufacture of horse blanket straps and other leather goods. In addition to his store for the sale of goods, he has for many years employed several skilled workmen in his manufacturing department. He has always taken an active interest in political affairs, and for a number of years served on the Republican town committee. He represented this district in the State Legislature for the years 1895 and 1896, and was also State Senator for 1897 and 1898. In the Senate he was chairman of the agricultural committee for both years, and served on other important committees. In January 1899, the question of who should be postmaster of the Athol office having been given by Congressman Gillett to the Republican patrons of the office to decide by a caucus, he was elected by a large vote for that position. He has been prominently identified with the Grand Army and Masonic organizations of the town, having been master of Star Lodge two terms, and is one of the executive committee of the Second Unitarian Church, of which he has been a member since its formation. In 1859 he married Josie M. Knowlton, daughter of Stillman Knowlton a prominent



HARDING R. BARBER.



HERBERT S. GODDARD.



CONVERSE WARD.



ADOLPHUS BANGS.





citizen of Athol, by whom he had two children, Henry H. and Fred K. In 1874 he married Miss Annie Clapp of Montague, by whom he had one daughter, Mabel, and in April, 1883, married Miss Alice Nims of Keene, N. H. They have two daughters, Grace E. and Helen R.

HERBERT S. GODDARD was born in Royalston, April 11, 1852. He lived at home on the farm until sixteen years of age, attending the district schools. His education was supplemented by several terms' attendance at Powers Institute in Bernardston, and a year at the State University of Minnesota. He then returned to Royalston and was engaged for about fifteen years in the portable steam mill and lumbering business with C. D. Davis, also of Royalston, their field of operations being mostly in Royalston and Petersham. In 1888 he engaged in the manufacture of piano cases in Athol, in company with the late Robert Manning, the firm being known as Goddard & Manning, and a successful business was conducted until the death of Mr. Manning in March, 1895. The business was continued with another partner until 1897 when Mr. Goddard sold out his interest, and has not since engaged in any business. He is a member of the Baptist church of which he was for several years the treasurer, and has been a director and vice president of the Y. M. C. A., since its organization. He is also a member of the board of assessors of the town. He was married Sept 15, 1880, to Miss Sarah E. Forristall of Boston, and they have two daughters.

ADOLPHUS BANGS, youngest son of Joel and Minerva (Haskins) Bangs was born in New Salem, May 19, 1830.

He remained at home upon the farm until eighteen years of age, when finding agricultural pursuits not congenial to his tastes, he went to Hadley, Mass., where he learned the broom-making business. He was engaged in the manufacture of brooms in Leverett until January, 1857, when he commenced his career as a hotel keeper, leasing the hotel in Montague. In the fall of 1858 he moved to Athol and entered the employ of Hunt & Packard, grocers, where he remained until August, 1862, when he enlisted in Co. E, 53d Mass. Regiment. He returned home with his regiment, Aug. 24, 1863, and in the summer of 1864 went to Vicksburg as recruiting officer for the State of Massachusetts, and at the close of this service engaged in the grocery business with his father-in-law, J. F. Packard. He continued in this business until Jan. 1, 1867, when with the late Orrin F. Hunt he purchased the Pequig Hotel property. In 1868 Mr. Bangs became sole owner of the property, and the landlord of the hotel, which he successfully managed for nearly two decades. He has been identified with the growth and enterprise of the town, always taking a deep interest in the introduction of new business into the place, not only using his influence but his money in that direction. He is a member of the various Masonic organizations of the town and of Titus Strong Council of Greenfield, and also of the Hubbard V. Smith Post, G. A. R. He was married May 27, 1852, to Miss Susan S. Packard of New Salem. They have one daughter, the wife of Chas. A. Fairbanks of Boston, with whom they have made their home since the sale of the hotel property in Athol.

CONVERSE WARD, a well known druggist in town, was born in North Orange, Sept. 23, 1845. He attended the district and private schools of that village, and at the age of eighteen years he came to Athol and entered the employ of S. E. Fay in his drug and grocery store in Houghton's block, now the City Hotel building. He remained in that position for seven years, and was then clerk for Hunt Bros, about two years, when he went to Turners Falls and was confidential clerk and bookkeeper for the late Rector L. Goss for five years. He then returned to Athol and purchased the drug store of Wm. H. Puffer in the Starr Hall block, in which building he has ever since carried on that business. Mr. Ward has been a member of the board of Registrars of Voters for fifteen years. He is a member of the three Masonic organizations of the town, and has been treasurer of Union Royal Arch Chapter for eight years. He is also a member of Tully Lodge of Odd Fellows, and a charter member of Poquaig Club, and its treasurer since its organization. He was married Oct. 31, 1867 to Mary E. Haskins of Athol. They have two children, Franklin E. and Ethel V.

GEORGE H. COOKE, son of Jacob Smith Cooke, was born in Athol, Aug. 15, 1851. His education was received in the Athol schools and at New Salem Academy. His first work was in the sash and blind shop of Edwin Ellis, where he received twenty-five cents per day. He was assistant postmaster for T. H. Goodspeed at the Athol Centre office for two or three years, and then went in company with J. F. Packard in the grocery business for about

a year, when he sold out and went to Leominster, where he was engaged in the grocery and drug business for five years, two years of which time he was in company with Bela J. Jacobs, and three years alone. He then returned to Athol and engaged extensively in building, having erected the Grand Army blocks in each village and about fifty dwelling houses, and has also invested heavily in centrally located real estate, becoming one of the largest real estate owners in the town. He has been active in getting new business interests into town, and has been largely interested in 'the Millers River, Citizens' and Athol Building Companies, and has also been engaged to some extent in the lumber business. He married Mary A. Patterson, Nov. 25, 1875. They have one son, Charles Henry, now a student at Amherst College.

JAMES COTTON was born in Princeton, Mass., Nov. 1, 1848. He came to Athol when fifteen years of age and obtained employment in the mill of the Millers River Manufacturing Co. In August, 1864, he enlisted in Co. H, Fourth Mass. Heavy Artillery, and served until the close of the war. He returned to Athol and went to work for J. M. Cheney in the match business, and in 1875 hired the shop of Mr. Cheney and carried on business for himself for three years, since which he has been engaged in the lumbering business. Mr. Cotton served on the board of selectmen for three years and was a constable of the town for nearly twenty years continuously. He is a member of Parker Post, G. A. R., and of the various Masonic organizations in town and the Mystic Shrine. He married Miss Maria Plunkett of Athol, Nov. 15, 1866, and has eight children.



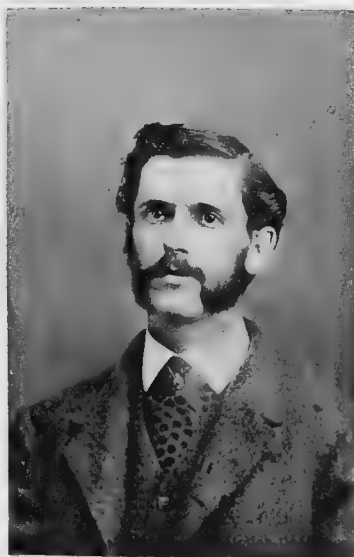
GEORGE H. COOKE.



JAMES COTTON.



CALVIN MILLER.



GEORGE S. BREWER.



CALVIN MILLER was born in Westminster, March 18, 1837; his education was obtained in the public schools of his native town and at the old Westminster Academy. Born on a farm near old Wachusett Mountain, his early life was spent on the farm until twenty-one years of age, when he went into a store in Westminster as clerk for four years. In 1864 he went to Milwaukee, Wis., and that year and the following was employed in a dry goods store of that city. He then returned to Massachusetts and was book-keeper in one of the chair manufacturing establishments of Gardner for four years. He came to Athol in 1871 and engaged in the manufacture of furniture with the late J. B. Cardany, under the firm name of Cardany & Miller. At the end of two years the firm was dissolved and Mr. Miller continued the business alone for ten years. He was also engaged in the coal business from 1875 to 1883, built the bakery on Exchange Street with A. A. Ward in 1881, bought him out in 1883, and after continuing the business alone till 1886, sold out to Albert Ellsworth. From that time until his removal to Worcester in 1894, he was engaged in lumbering and the real estate business. Mr. Miller served the town as collector of taxes in 1883, '87 and '88. He married Miss Amelia V. Alger of Winchendon, Feb. 15, 1870, and has two children.

GEORGE S. BREWER was born in Petersham, June 11, 1851. His education was received in the common schools of his native town, and at the Highland Institute of Petersham. He remained at home on the farm until twenty years of age, and came to Athol in 1872 when he went to

work for J. M. Cheney in the match business, where he remained two years. He then in company with Dwight Bass established the wood turning business in the old Drury & Allen shop, but soon removed to the Hapgood & Smith shop, where he was in the same business alone for four years. He has been largely interested in the improvement of real estate at the Highlands, having in 1878, purchased the Oliver property on the corner of Main and Pleasant streets, and in 1882 the Milton Baker property, extending from the Congregational church to the grist mill. This property he has improved by the building of new blocks and shops. He furnished the land and put in the water plant for the Hill & Greene shoe shop, and was largely interested in the building of the Ellis dam. He has been for several years engaged in the manufacture of boxes, window frames and mouldings. He is a member of Tully Lodge of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and was a member of the Republican town committee for several years. He was married Dec. 8, 1890 to Miss Mabel Lee, daughter of James M. Lee.

ANDREW JACKSON HAMILTON, oldest son of Harrison and Lucy A. (Gilbert) Hamilton, was born in Shutesbury, Mass., March 12, 1846. He removed to Bernardston in 1856, where he attended Powers Institute five years under the noted principal, L. F. Ward, served one year in a village grocery store, followed by three years' service in the "old brick" general store of R. F. Newcomb. While in the latter place his employer was absent about a year in the Civil war, leaving young Hamilton with a clerk still



younger in charge of the business. Later a year's service as dry goods clerk in Holyoke, Mass., was followed by one year in a general store and post office at Hinsdale, N. H., during which year he was united in marriage with Miss Julia Wilkins of Orange, who still shares his fortunes. They have one son, Andrew Foster, a student in Amherst College, class of 1901. In April, 1869, Mr. Hamilton came to Athol as clerk for S. E. Fay, druggist and grocer, with whom he remained two years, and then accepted a clerkship in the insurance office and music store of H. B. & N. H. Hunt, later Hunt Brothers, where he continued until July 1, 1878, when with J. Luther Hunt as a co-partner the business was purchased and continued under the firm name of Hunt & Hamilton until July 1, 1883, when the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Hamilton becoming sole proprietor of the "Athol Life & Fire Insurance Agency," which had been established in 1865 by the late Howard B. Hunt. In 1894 he made extensive additions and improvements to the premises now known as Hamilton's Block, and occupies a convenient insurance office on the ground floor. Mr. Hamilton has been prominently identified with the social, religious and political affairs of the town, is a member of the Congregational church, treasurer of the Young Men's Christian Association, and a member of the board of cemetery commissioners. In politics he has always been a Republican, and an active worker in the party. He is a Past Dictator of Acme Lodge Knights of Honor, Past Grand of Tully Lodge of Odd Fellows, Past High Priest of Mount Pleasant Encampment,

a member of Banner Rebekah Lodge, Canton Athol, the Poquaig Club, and an associate member of Post 140, G. A. R., and holds commissions as Justice of the Peace, Notary Public and commissioner to qualify civil officers.

ALBERT R. TOWER was born in Boston, Sept. 19, 1849. His mother died when he was only a few days old, and he was brought to New Salem to live with his uncle, William Rice, where he lived until twelve years of age. After two years spent in Petersham he came to Athol, which has since been his home. In September, 1865, he went to work for J. S. and F. C. Parmenter in the store on the corner of Main and Exchange Streets, where he remained five and one-half years. In April, 1871, he went into partnership with F. C. Parmenter, under the firm name of Parmenter & Tower, and in May, 1892, Mr. Tower bought out the interest of his partner and still continues the business. He was married Oct. 15, 1873 to Miss Narcissa A. White, daughter of Rev. L. White, then principal of New Salem Academy, in which institution Miss White was also a teacher. They have two daughters, Jennie W., who married Rev. A. V. House of New Salem, and Mary Elizabeth, wife of David Findlay of Athol, and one son, Albert R. Jr., who lives at home. Mr. Tower has been for many years a prominent member of the Congregational church of which he was chosen deacon in January, 1892, and was for three years superintendent of the Sunday School.

FRANK S. PARMENTER, son of J. Sumner Parmenter, was born in Athol, Oct. 26, 1849. His education was



ANDREW J. HAMILTON.



ALBERT R. TOWER.



FRANK S. PARMENTER.



WILLIAM H. KENDALL.



received in the Athol schools and at Trenton Academy in New Jersey. After returning to Athol about 1867, he entered the store of J. S. & F. C. Parmenter as clerk, and in 1870 engaged in the dry goods business with his father, which partnership was continued for four years, when his father retired from the business and he continued it in company with Charles A. Carruth for two years. After this he was engaged in the dry goods business in Springfield, Mass., for three years, St. Albans, Vt., about two years and Orange, Mass., three years, when he returned to Athol and was engaged in the clothing business with W. H. Kendall for four years, the firm name being Parmenter & Kendall. After being out of business for a time, he was in the West for a short time, and then again engaged in the dry goods business in Orange, where he continued until the fall of 1897, when he removed his business to Athol. He was married Aug. 26, 1873 to Adele C. Ellis, daughter of Edwin Ellis. Mr. Parmenter has been town auditor, is a member of the Congregational church and of Athol Lodge of Masons.

WILLIAM H. KENDALL was born in Boston, April 14, 1851. He came to Athol when fourteen years of age, and after attending school in Petersham for two or three years went to work in the sash and blind factory of Edwin Ellis, where he was employed for nine years. He was then clerk for several years in the stores of Chas. L. Lord and Chas. A. Carruth, after which he became manager of the clothing store of S. Packard in the Houghton block. After a year or two in this position, in company with Frank S.

Parmenter he bought out the business of Mr. Packard, which was continued for three or four years, when he bought out the interest of his partner and carried on the business until February, 1897, when he sold out and since that time has been clerk in several stores. He was married May 20, 1873, to Miss Flora M. Wood, daughter of the late John C. Wood.

CHARLES W. BANNON was born in Springfield, Mass., Dec. 14, 1824. He attended the schools of his native city until sixteen years of age, and then learned the tailor's trade of Cole & Brownell in Springfield. He came to Athol April 28, 1846 to superintend a tailoring establishment for Hardon & Houghton, and this town has been his home ever since. He carried on business for himself from 1857 to 1873, and then was connected with the late Alvin Houghton for three years. In 1876 he again commenced business on his own account which he continued until 1883 when he opened a merchant tailor and ready made clothing store in Orange, which he carried on fifteen years. Mr. Bannon entered the fire department in 1846, when he first came to town, and was soon made foreman of the old Tiger Engine Co., No. 1, which position he held for several years. He was one of the first board of fire engineers. He has been prominent in the Masonic fraternity, having been the first Master Mason raised in Star Lodge in 1864, was Master of the lodge in 1871, High Priest of Union Royal Arch Chapter in 1872, was the first High Priest of Crescent Chapter of Orange in 1884, and has been Grand Principal Sojourner of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts.



**CHAS. W. BANNON.**



**RUSSELL S. HORTON.**



**ALLEN F. FLETCHER.**



**AMERICUS V. FLETCHER.**





He was one of the committee to publish the book, "Athol in Suppressing the Rebellion," upon which he did much work. In 1850 he commenced investigating the philosophy and phenomena of modern Spiritualism, and was one of the first in Athol to give attention to that subject. He is president of the first Spiritual Association of Athol. He was married Jan. 10, 1849 to Miss Betsey H. Mayo of Worcester. They have two sons, Frank W. and Charles A.

RUSSELL S. HORTON was born in Gill, Jan. 16, 1825. He was educated in the common schools of Franklin county towns and the High school at Warwick. After leaving school he traveled in the West about two years. He came to Athol in 1850, and went to work for C. M. Lee, who had then just commenced making shoes. He remained in the employ of Mr. Lee until 1852, when he went to Lynn, and was engaged for several years in manufacturing shoes. While in Lynn he married Ruth Adaline Newhall, July 25, 1857. He served in the war in the Fourth Mass. Heavy Artillery. In 1869 he came back to Athol and again entered the employ of Mr. Lee, where he remained until 1881. He represented the eighth Worcester district in the Legislature of 1880, and has served on the board of fire engineers. He was the head of the Sovereigns of Industry, when that organization flourished, and has been interested in nearly all of the labor organizations that have existed in Athol. After leaving the employ of Mr. Lee in 1881 he worked for Horace Hager several years making shoes and has also worked at the Hill & Greene shops.

AMERICUS V. FLETCHER was born in Athol, Oct. 24, 1835. His mother died when he was a young boy, and he lived with different families in town until thirteen years of age when he went to Greenwich, which was his home about two years. He then went to Greenfield where he was employed in the John Russell cutlery works for two or three years, and then to Pratt's Hollow in New York state where he worked for a time in the hop fields. After engaging in different occupations for a few years he went to Hubbardston and learned the stove and tin ware business. Returning to Athol he started in business with his brother, A. F. Fletcher, in 1858, in the basement of the house known as the Stockwell house, near E. T. Lewis's office at the upper village. In 1859 they built what is known as Fuller's block at the Centre, and later purchased the Humphrey sash shop, where the piano case shop has since been located, and where they manufactured pumps. In 1868 Mr. Fletcher purchased a stove and tin ware business on Exchange street in which business he has been engaged ever since in different places in the village. He is a member of Star Lodge of Masons. He was married July 4, 1860 to Emeline O. Peckham of Dana. They have two children, Edith, the wife of Chas L. Fay, and Carl A., who is a student at the University of Pennsylvania.

ALLEN FLORENTINE FLETCHER was born in Athol, Mar. 28, 1839. His mother died when he was five years old, and his boyhood was spent with relatives in Templeton, North Orange, Greenwich Village and other places. In 1853 he went to Greenfield and worked in the John Rus-

sell cutlery factory for a short time, after which he returned to Athol and was employed in the Hapgood match shop for a while. In 1855 he went to Hubbardston and engaged himself to Appleton and Leonard Clark for three years to learn the tin trade. In 1858 in company with his brother, Americus V., he bought the tin and stove business of Collins Andrews, and the next year they built the block which has been known as Fuller's block at the Centre, now occupied by Samuel Lee and others. About 1862 he added the manufacture of pumps to his business, and in 1868 sold his interest in the tin and stove business to his brother, and has since that time given his attention to the manufacture of pumps, having taken out several patents and made valuable improvements, his shop being located near the junction of Riverbend Street with Hapgood Street. In 1863 he built the first brass foundry in town where the piano shop is now located. He was married May 28, 1862, to Miss Ann Jane Chamberlin. They have two children, Grace G., who married Wellington I. Dow and Edgar Allen.

AUGUSTUS COOLIDGE was born in Erving, Mass., Oct. 2, 1842. His education was obtained in the public schools of his native town and at Burnham's Business College in Springfield. He was employed for two or three years in the cartridge manufacturing establishment of C. D. Leete & Co., of Springfield, and then engaged in canvassing for books, pictures, etc., which he followed for several years, and then took up the life insurance business, locating in Worcester in 1869. In 1874 he commenced to build up a

fire insurance business which he conducted successfully until his removal to Athol in July, 1884. He opened an insurance office in a small room in Parmenter's block, where he remained two years, was in Starr Hall block five and one half years, when he removed to his present office in his Main Street block which he erected in 1891. Soon after coming to Athol, having faith in the future growth and prosperity of the town, Mr. Coolidge commenced to invest in real estate. His first venture was the purchase of the Simonds block in 1886, which he followed up in 1887 with buying the cotton mill property, which had been in the market for years. He developed the property by laying out a portion of it into building lots, erected houses, and sold various parts of the estate, making therefrom a handsome sum. In 1890 he purchased the Charles L. Lord estate on Main Street. He was secretary of the Athol Board of Trade for several years, and spent much time and money in his labors to induce business enterprises to locate in town and one of the results of these efforts was the piano works of Goddard & Manning. While in Worcester he was a member of the Main Street Baptist church, and was an active worker in the Young Men's Christian Association of that city. On coming to Athol he connected himself with the local Baptist church, and first came into public notice by revolutionizing affairs in that church, being at the head of a committee for raising five thousand dollars for repairing the church. He has been Noble Grand of Tully Lodge of Odd Fellows, and is also a member of the various Masonic organizations in town, and for



AUGUSTUS COOLIDGE.



the last number of years has been an active and influential worker in town and political affairs, and was chosen Republican presidential elector in the campaign of 1896. In 1888 he delivered the historical address at the 50th anniversary of the town of Erving. He was married July 30, 1869 to Hannah P. Blake of Springfield, a teacher in the public schools of that city.

LILLEY B. CASWELL was born in Fitchburg, March 29, 1848. His early education was obtained in the district, Grammar and High schools of his native town. In 1867 he entered the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst as a member of the first class, known as the "Pioneer Class," and graduated in 1871. While in college he taught school during the winter terms in several towns, and also for several terms after graduating. Soon after leaving college he entered the office of George Raymond, civil engineer of Fitchburg, and in May, 1873, came to Athol and in company with Samuel D. Baldwin of Fitchburg opened an office for the civil engineering business under the firm name of Baldwin & Caswell. This partnership was continued between three and four years when it was dissolved, Mr. Caswell retaining the business, which he has continued to carry on to the present time. During his residence of twenty-five years in Athol he has been actively interested in town affairs, and in the religious, educational and political life of the community. For several winters after coming to Athol he taught the Grammar school at South Royalston and the High school at Royalston Centre, and conducted evening schools in Athol. In

addition to his civil engineering business, which has extended into all the towns in this part of the state, he has done much work as a correspondent and reporter for various papers, among which are the Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Worcester Spy, Greenfield Gazette and Courier, Athol Transcript and others. He has also compiled and published several directories. In 1880 he was appointed a census enumerator of Athol, for the United States census of that year, and in March of the same year was elected a member of the school committee, which position he held for nine years. In 1882 he was chosen one of the library committee by the town to receive the library from the Athol Library Association, when it became public a library, and was a member of the committee until 1886, and has also been a member of the committee for the last three years. He has also served the town in various other positions, is serving his second term on the Board of Health, is one of the Sewer Commissioners, and has served on important committees. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace by Governor Long in 1882, and has received successive reappointments to the present time. In June, 1883, he was appointed one of the Trial Justices for the county of Worcester by Governor Butler, and held that position until the establishment of the First District Court of Northern Worcester abolished the office. He was also appointed by Governor Butler a commissioner for qualifying civil officers, which position he now holds. He is a member of the Methodist church, with which he has been prominently identified, is one of the stewards of the church, and is







ISAIAH L. CRAGIN.

serving on his ninth year as superintendent of the Sunday school. He has been one of the directors of the Young Men's Christian Association since its organization, is a member of Tully Lodge of Odd Fellows and Mount Pleasant Encampment, was one of the charter members of Athol Grange, and is a corresponding member of the Fitchburg Historical Society. For many years he was a member of the Democratic town committee, and several years the chairman. He was married Jan. 2, 1877, to Mary Elizabeth Keyes of Melrose.

ISAIAH L. CRAGIN was born in Alstead, N. H., Aug. 22, 1819. His parents moved to New Ipswich when he was one year old, and this was his home until 1831. After attending the public schools he pursued his studies at Appleton Academy, New Ipswich, and Lawrence Academy, Groton. In 1837 he went to Boston and was employed in a shoe store on Hanover Street, where he remained until he had an appointment in the Navy as assistant surgeon under Commodore Stewart at the Washington Navy Yard. In 1843 he went to Groton and engaged in farming, but owing to ill health he was obliged to give up the business. He again went to Boston and was engaged in business, being for a year or two in the firm of J. Nourse & Co., dealers in agricultural implements. About 1866 he went to Philadelphia and had the agency of Dobbin's Electric soap for about a year, when with his son he purchased the business, and developed an extensive and profitable business, which is now carried on by his son. In 1877 Mr. Cragin came to Athol and purchased the old Humphrey

homestead on "Athol Street," which he greatly improved. He is one of the owners of the Cragin Cattle Co., in the Indian Territory which has had at times nearly twenty thousand head of cattle. He has been deeply interested in the agricultural interests of Athol, and was for three years president of the Worcester Northwest Agricultural Society.

ADIN H. SMITH, son of Joshua and Hannah (Fish) Smith, was born in Athol, June 18, 1815, on the farm known as the "brick yard farm" in the west part of the town, where his father was also born. His great grandfather, Lieut. Ephraim Smith, was one of the earliest settlers of Athol, who came from Hatfield when twenty-one years old built a log house, where the house of Charles L. Goddard now stands. He was one of the minute men who marched on the Lexington alarm in the Revolution, and his son Caleb was also a sergeant in the same company. Caleb Smith had eleven children, all of whom with the exception of Joshua, Adin's father, went to Vermont and New York and settled around Lake Champlain. Adin lived on the farm where he was born and engaged in farming and brick making until 1874, when he removed to the village, which was ever after his home. He continued to carry on his farm and brick business until 1889, when he retired from the latter. The bricks from the Smith yard were considered among the best manufactured in the state and were used extensively by the Vermont & Massachusetts Railroad Co., and in Worcester, Fitchburg, Athol, Orange and other places. He was interested in the intro-



ADIN H. SMITH.



duction of gas and water into town, and was the first president of the Athol Gas Light Co., and one of the first directors of the Athol Water Co. He would never accept of town office, though he took an active part in town affairs. He was a member of Star Lodge of Masons and Athol Commandery Knights Templars. He was married Nov. 10, 1837, to Miss Mary C. Adams of Orange by whom he had two children, Martha J., the wife of Jonathan W. Sawyer, and Ellen, who married Jonathan Davis of Sterling, and died in 1883. He was married a second time, March 2, 1843, to Louisa M. Adams, a sister of his first wife. By this marriage there were three children, Mary A., who married Edgar Hanson, Lucy M., widow of L. C. Parmenter and H. Waldo. Mr. Smith died of pneumonia, Jan. 21, 1898.

AZOR S. DAVIS was born Sept. 26, 1830, in Kingston, R. I., and when two or three years old came with his parents to Athol, who made their home on Chestnut Hill on the farm now owned by George A. Merrifield. He attended the district school in that part of the town, working evenings and on Saturdays making boots. His school life closed when only twelve years old, and he continued to work for his father until about twenty years of age, when he came to the village and went to work for his uncle, Ozi Kendall. After working for him three or four years a co-partnership was formed between Ozi Kendall, Geo N. Kendall, and A. S. Davis with the firm name of O. Kendall & Co., for the manufacture of calf boots. This partnership was continued until about the time of the civil war,

when Mr. Davis enlisted in August, 1862, as a musician in Co. E, 25th Mass. regiment, and served until the expiration of his term of enlistment, Oct. 20, 1864. On his return to Athol from the war he commenced making custom work at his home on Walnut street, employing two or three hands until about 1870 when he opened a retail boot and shoe store on Exchange Street, where he continued until about 1883, when he removed his business to Stockwell's block on Main Street, where he remained until 1898, when he moved to his present location in the Academy of Music block. Mr. Davis is one of the trustees of the Methodist church, and has been a member of its choir since the society was organized in 1851, except while absent in the army, serving most of the time as leader. He married Elizabeth M. Morse, April 7, 1853. They have one daughter, Florence, the wife of N. S. Beebe.

HIRAM C. DUNTON was born in Phillipston, Nov. 4, 1855. He attended the district school until fourteen years of age, and remained at home on the farm until twenty-one years old. The following year he entered the employ of J. D. Parker & Co. of Goulding Village in Phillipston, working on the farm and in the chair shop for three years. Desiring to enter mercantile business, he took the hard-earned money of those three years and attended Glenwood Classical Seminary at Brattleboro, Vt., for one year, paying his tuition by caring for the school buildings. He then took a six months' course at French's Business College at Boston. In 1879 he became clerk in the store of N. L. Johnson at North Orange where he remained until the





AZOR S. DAVIS.



H. C. DUNTON.



H. F. PRESTON.



J. W. DONOVAN.



following April, and then entered the employ of Charles T. Hudson in the grocery business at Springfield, commencing at the bottom and working up to be head clerk. He continued there until 1882, when he went to Orange as clerk for Chas. Towne, where he was engaged until the fall of 1885, and then came to Athol to work for J. B. Cardany, with whom he remained until Mr. Cardany's death in 1888, and continued to work for C. F. Dow, who purchased the business, until September 1890, when he bought the Henry Cook crockery and furniture business, and has increased it until it has become one of the largest complete house furnishing establishments between Boston and Troy. He is also the leading undertaker of the town. He is a member of Tully Lodge of Odd Fellows, of the Knights, of Pythias and is one of the cemetery commissioners of the town. He was married in January, 1882, to Miss Mary E. Newton, a teacher of large experience. They have two daughters.

HENRY F. PRESTON was born at Peterboro, N. H. Dec. 8, 1848. He attended the common schools and later the Academy in that place, after which he was employed in several wood working shops, and was also assistant overseer in the cotton mill there. When seventeen years of age he joined the Peterboro Cornet Band as cornetist, and was chosen its leader three years after, which position he held until January, 1874, when he became leader of the East Jaffrey Band, and was engaged by the Winchendon Band from January, 1875, to October, 1878, when he came to Athol as leader of the Citizens Band, which he conducted

until the breaking up of that organization eight years later. He has been temporary leader of nine other bands, and has filled engagements with thirty four bands, among which are the Fitchburg, Medford, Metropolitan of Boston, two in Newburyport, Manchester, N. H., Brattleboro, Vt., and other places. He has filled summer engagements at Lake Pleasant, the Isle of Shoals, White Mountains, Bar Harbor, while his band engagements have extended from St. Albans, Vt., to Martha's Vineyard and from North Adams to Portland, Me. In 1892 he bought and has since carried on the Highland photograph studio. He is a member of Athol Lodge of Masons. He was married Nov. 11, 1875, to Belle L. Bartlett, a native of Monroe, Wisconsin.

JOHN W. DONOVAN was born in Athol, June 8, 1857. He attended the public schools from the lowest grade through the High school, and after leaving school went to work for H. R. Barber, making buckle straps, where he was employed for two years. He was then clerk in the grocery store of S. E. Fay for three years, and worked at the Athol Machine shop for two years, after which he learned the business of a barber, in which he has continued since 1880, having been in business for himself with the exception of the first three years. He was married Nov. 23, 1884, to Miss Joanna Fitzgibbons of Athol. They have one daughter. Mr. Donovan has been superintendent of the Sunday School of St. Catherine's church four years, and is a member of Court Athol, Foresters of America and of the Knights of Pythias.

ENOCH T. LEWIS was born in Royalston, Sept. 6, 1830.

His father, Timothy Lewis, was a native of Athol and lived here during his early life, being a surveyor and Justice of the Peace. Enoch lived at home until about fourteen years old when he went to Warwick and worked on a farm, but soon came to Athol and learned the trade of marble worker of Whitman T. Lewis, who carried on business at the Centre. He worked at Laconia, N. H., and Marlboro about four years. He married Almira M. Jenison of Prescott, July 4, 1852, and the next year started the marble business in Athol which he carried on until about 1873, when he sold out to L. M. Wellman. He was appointed sexton in 1853, and engaged in the undertaking business in 1869 which he continued until 1884. As sexton and undertaker he officiated at the burial of over eighteen hundred persons. In 1862 he enlisted in Co. E, Fifty-third Mass. regiment, and was with the regiment in all its marches and engagements. He has served in many public offices. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1863, and has by successive reappointments served to the present time; has been a Notary Public since 1874, was one of the Trial Justices from 1878 to 1884, and a coroner from 1870 to 1877. He was one of the enumerators of the United States census of 1880 and the state census of 1875. He served the town as constable for nineteen years, tax collector seven years, auditor for two or three years and treasurer one year. He has been one of the most prominent members of the Worcester Northwest Agricultural Society, serving as secretary from 1864 to 1880, with the exception of one year and was also secre-

tary in 1883; represented the Society as delegate to the State Board of Agriculture three years, and was its president in 1882. Since retiring from the undertaking business in 1884, he has engaged in the settling of estates and in looking after his extensive real estate interests. He has one daughter, the wife of Dr. E. Ward Cooke of Cambridgeport.

JOHN SWAN, son of John and Polly (Lovering) Swan, was born in Phillipston, March 2, 1833. His mother was killed by lightning when he was about six years old, and he went to live with an uncle until ten years of age, when his father married again and the family moved to Hammond, St. Lawrence County, New York. John lived there until fifteen years old, when he came to Athol, which has since been his home. He engaged in butchering and had a market under the old Pequoig House for ten years or more. His market was also located for a number of years under the old Bassett & Chickering store, where Starr Hall block now stands. Soon after the old block was burned he moved his market to the building on Exchange St., where it has ever since been located, and where it is now carried on by his son, W. L. Swan, Mr. Swan retiring from the business in 1887. About 1861 he purchased the farm known as the Partridge place, on an elevation west of the village, which has since been his home, and where in addition to the market business, that he carried on so long, he has engaged extensively in farming. He has devoted much attention of late years to the raising of horses, and is also the owner of several noted trotting horses. His first

venture in this line was the celebrated trotting mare, Lady Sheridan, which in 1891 won five more races than any other horse in the country, besides numerous ice races in which she participated in Canada and New York, where she won every race in which she engaged. Her fastest time is 2.15 1-4. Other trotters owned by him are Checo and Claremont. Mr. Swan is one of the few men of the present day who does not belong to any secret organization. He was married in June, 1858, to Augusta S. Fox of Wilmington, Vt. They have three children, Minna, the wife of Albert Ellsworth, and William L. and Everett L.

MOSES HILL. son of Asa and Anna (Ballard) Hill, was born in Athol, Aug. 15, 1822. His grandfather, Moses Hill, was one of the first settlers of Chestnut Hill. The family have now in their possession an old deed dated June 21, 1765, in which Aaron Jones of Weston deeds to Moses Hill of Spencer, in consideration of Ninety Pounds, land in the northerly part of Athol, containing by estimation two hundred and forty-five acres. Moses Hill probably came to Athol about 1767 and built a house on Chestnut Hill about twenty feet square. This farm has ever since been in the possession of the Hill family, and is now the home of Moses Hill and his son-in-law, Oren M. Lawton, who married his daughter, Lucy Hill. Mr. Hill has always been engaged in farming. He is a member of the Congregational church.

## CHAPTER XXII.

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

"I will pick up a few straws here and there over the broad field and ask you a few moments to look at them."



EARLY all of the secret societies of the country are represented in Athol, many of them with large and flourishing lodges.

FREE MASONS. The earliest Freemasonry in Athol of which any record has been preserved was about the year 1790: when the names of a few brethren from this town appear on the rolls of two or three of the older lodges of the County. They went long distances to attend the meetings without railway or decent road facilities, and at great expense of time and labor. At a meeting of the Grand Lodge, Sept. 13, 1802, a charter was granted for a lodge named "Harris" to be held in this town. Harris Lodge was duly constituted and consecrated, and its officers installed by the M. W. Isaiah



Thomas (the Patriot Printer of the Revolution), on Oct. 13, 1803. The Grand lodge was formed in the Crosby tavern, where the house of Winfield H. Brock now is, and after the private work was over a grand procession was formed, headed by a coach drawn by two black horses, which had brought the Grand Master and his aids from Boston, and a band of clarinets and bugles, which wended its way to the only meeting house in town upon the common at the Centre where an appropriate sermon was preached by Rev. Bro. Elliott of Watertown. The lodge was composed of the Athol Masons together with those of Gerry, Templeton, Petersham and Orange. In 1812 the lodge was removed to Gerry, and a year or so later to Templeton, where meetings were held until 1834. For more than half a century there was no Masonic institution of any kind in Athol, until July 4, 1864, when Star Lodge was chartered, with Andrew Atwood as the first Master. The first meetings were held in the lower village, but the place of meeting was soon changed to the upper village. The first Mason raised in Star Lodge, and consequently the first in Athol for more than fifty years was Charles W. Bannon.

As showing the feeling against Masonry during the great Anti-Masonic excitement prevailing during the first half of this century, we quote a verse from a song published in "Freedom's Sentinel," Athol's local paper in 1829:

"Mourn, mourn, ye mystic sons of woe,  
In sadness bow the head;  
Bend every back in sorrow low,  
Poor Masonry is dead."

Union Royal Arch Chapter received its charter March 13, 1866, with Rev. George L. Hunt as the first High Priest. Athol Lodge was chartered Sept. 12, 1872, with Erastus Smith as the first Master. Athol Commandery of Knights Templars was instituted Jan. 23, 1874 with Dr. V. O. Taylor as the first Commander, It has had a total membership of two hundred and forty-six.

Themis Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was instituted Oct. 3, 1890, with fifty-six charter members, and Mrs. George F. Lord as Worthy Matron.

ODD FELLOWS. Odd Fellowship as a permanent organization in Athol dates from Oct. 15, 1884, when Tully Lodge, No. 136, was instituted, with Lewis Sanders as the first Noble Grand. Previous to this several in Athol had been members of Social Lodge of Orange. Mount Pleasant Encampment was instituted April 23, 1889, and Canton Athol was organized Sept. 6, 1889.

Banner Lodge No. 89, Daughters of Rebekah, was instituted April 17, 1890, under most favorable circumstances with Mrs. Maria L. Morse as the first Noble Grand.

WORCESTER NORTHWEST AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL SOCIETY. The first cattle show in Athol was held Sept, 28, 1858, on the common at the Centre. The next month, Oct. 27, the Athol Agricultural and Mechanical Society was organized. The first officers were: President, Dr. J. P. Lynde; secretary, Samuel Lee; treasurer, Moses H. Wood; trustees, Elias Bassett, Calvin Kelton, Joseph F. Dunbar, Lyman W. Hapgood. The new society started

off with ninety-eight members. The society existed as a town organization until April 2, 1867, when it was incorporated as the Worcester Northwest Agricultural and Mechanical Society, and was admitted to the sisterhood of agricultural societies, enjoying the bounty of the state. During the years it was a town society the fairs were held on the uptown common, and the vestry of the Congregational church was used as a hall. The first annual fair of the newly incorporated society was held Sept. 25, 1867. In 1868, the present fair grounds were purchased and in 1869 a half-mile track was built, and the hall and other buildings erected, and the grounds were enclosed by a fence. On the completion of these improvements the society found itself in debt to the amount of fourteen thousand dollars. The first fair held on the new grounds was Oct. 5 and 6, 1869. The fairs of this society have become noted throughout the State, and especially the dinner and after-dinner speaking have become famous. Among the speakers at the dinners have been some of the most noted agriculturalists, politicians, clergymen, business and literary men, not only of the state, but of the nation. Nearly every governor of the state for thirty years or more has honored the society with his presence at the fairs.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR. As in all the wars of our country in the past Athol nobly did her duty, so in this the latest conflict for the rights of humanity, the sons of Athol went to the front in the thickest of the fight and did their duty bravely. Although the town did not have the honor of sending a full company to the war, it was well

represented in the company raised in our sister town of Orange, Co. E, of the Second Massachusetts Regiment U. S. Volunteers. The Athol boys in this company were as follows: Sergeant Harry L. Doane, Corporal Joseph T. Bemis, Corporal Adolphus C. Sweezey, Corporal Elwin W. Barton, Corporal Harland H. Knight, Corporal Herbert F. Burdick, Corporal Lester L. Luey, Corporal James D. Smith, Musician, Frank H. Rainey; Privates, Fred J. Betters, Sylvester O. Cheney, Ernest L. Coburn, Oliver D. Cook, Harry E. Dennis, Hugh G. Davis, George L. Davis, Frederick A. Hastings, Ernest W. Haskins, Albert Littlewood, Thomas McRae, Halbert V. Morse, William L. Pike, William H. Rivett, William L. Smith, Frank E. Wheeler, Byron J. Whitcomb.

Co. E was the first to put foot on Cuban soil, and was in the thickest of the fight at El Caney and San Juan. Although none of the Athol boys were killed on the field of battle or died from wounds received there, yet four gave up their lives, two having died at Santiago, and two a short time after reaching home.

WILLIAM L. PIKE was the first Athol boy to give up his life in the war. He was born in Worcester, July 8, 1874, a son of Albert L. Pike. When about four years old his parents moved to Athol and William attended the Athol schools, completing his education in the Grammar school, after which he was employed in different shops in town. He was a popular member of Athol Hose Co., No. 3. When war was declared and volunteers called for, he enlisted in Co. E, at Orange. He died Aug. 7, 1898, at Santiago of malarial fever.

HUGH GODDARD DAVIS was born in Royalston Aug. 10, 1878. He came to Athol with his parents when about fourteen years of age and entered the High school from which he graduated in the class of 1896. After graduating he immediately entered his father's box shop where he was engaged in work until that business was closed. When the war broke out he was among the first to enlist at the Orange recruiting station in Co. E, and passed a high medical examination. He was a prominent member of the Y. M. C. A., and took an active interest in the athletic sports of that organization. He died Aug. 11, 1898, at Santiago of embolism.

WILLIAM H. RIVETT was born in Hinsdale, N. H., Dec. 25, 1874. He attended the public schools and was then employed in the Kauffman woolen mill, and for about four years in the Bates Bros. wallet shop where he was at work at the time of his enlistment. For nearly a year previous to the outbreak of the war he had been a member of the militia in Co. E, at Orange. When the call for volunteers came he enlisted and went with Co. E to Framingham and through the campaign in Cuba. He came home from Camp Wikoff with others of his company a little in advance of the regiment, suffering from the deadly typhoid fever, and died at his home Aug. 31, 1898. He was a brave soldier and a noble young man.

HARLAND H. KNIGHT, the last of the Athol boys who died, was born in Phillipston in January, 1877. He moved to Athol with his parents when very young and attended the public schools until he reached the High

School, when he entered Hill & Greene's shoe factory. When the war broke out he was employed at the C. M. Lee shoe shops. He had been a member of Co. E for over two years and was considered one of the best shots in the company, having represented it at State tournaments on several occasions. Soon after reaching Cuba he was taken sick with malarial fever, from which he never fully recovered. He was one of the last to return home and died Sept. 21, 1898.

Other Athol boys serving in the war were Everett Young and Leon H. Crosman, who were members of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment, and Harry Hutchins, who served on the Government dispatch boat Huntress.

SAMUEL FRENCH CHENEY was born in Orange in 1802. He married Laurinda Battle, also a native of Orange, and settled in Athol Factory village in 1825. Four children were born to them, all of whom grew up: Elizabeth, who died at the age of eighteen; Nathan, who died in 1871 at the age of thirty-nine; George S. and C. Warren, who still survive. He worked at his trade of shoemaker, and built up a wholesale business, employing a number of workmen until 1840, when having suffered severe losses in the financial crash of that period, he abandoned the business and engaged with his brother Amos, and later with Amos L. Cheney in the manufacture of cotton batting, first in the old mill on the spot where Starrett's shop now stands, and afterwards building a dam on Mill Brook and flowing Cheney's Pond. He spent the later years of his life not engaged in active business, except as he built vari-



SAMUEL F. CHENEY.



AMOS CHENEY.



GEORGE S. CHENEY.



WHEELOCK A. CHENEY.





ous houses on the land which he purchased when a young man. He was a man of kindly disposition and genial companionship. He died April 17, 1874, and his wife survived him until 1885.

GEORGE S. CHENEY, son of Samuel F. and Laurinda Cheney was born in Athol, May 19, 1834. He attended the schools in town and New Salem Academy, and after teaching several terms in the district schools of Athol, he fitted at the Boston Music school for the avocation of music teacher, which he followed successfully about twenty years, teaching singing schools in the towns of Worcester, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties and spending seven years in Amherst, where he taught in both the old college and the Massachusetts Agricultural college. In 1875 he entered the employ of Hunt Bros., who were then general agents for the sale of Estey organs, and in 1878 went with them to Boston. He was for some time manager of the business of the Estey Organ Co., for New England and the Lower Provinces, and has for several years been connected with the A. M. McPhail Piano Co. His residence is Brookline. He was married Nov. 2, 1865, to Francelia E. Perkins of Woodstock, Vt. They have three children, Grace Perkins, Jessie May, who married Almon J. Fairbanks, and Nathan.

AMOS CHENEY was born in Orange, Nov. 2, 1793. He resided for a few years in Weare, N. H., where he was engaged in the manufacture of cotton batting. Later occupied a Connecticut River farm in Gill and came to Athol about 1846. He was for a time engaged in the manufac-

ture of cotton batting, and then served as clerk in the stores of Col. Nickerson, Alvin Houghton and P. C. Tyler. He was an enthusiastic lover of Free Masonry, having joined the order in his early manhood. He was married May 7, 1826, to Elvira, daughter of Solomon and Anne (Wheelock) Mallard of Gill. They had five children. One died in infancy, and the others, all of whom are now living, are Wheelock A., of Worcester, Ann Maria, who married George A. Flagg, Hiram W., of Cambridge, and Mary A., who married the late Col. George H. Hoyt. He died Dec. 5, 1871.

WHEELOCK A. CHENEY, son of Amos and Elvira (Mallard) Cheney, was born in Weare, N. H., April 22, 1830. He came to Athol with his parents when a boy of fourteen or fifteen years old. His first employment was in the printing office of the Mandell's, who published Athol's second paper, the "White Flag." He then went to Fitchburg, where he was employed in a printing office for several years, and from there to Worcester, where he was for some time foreman and manager of the Edward Fiske printing office, after which he established a printing office of his own, which has grown to large proportions. He was married May 22, 1852 to Lavinia Browning of Hubbardston. They have three children, two daughters and a son. The son, Wilfred Leroy, is in the office of his father, the oldest daughter, Florence Lilla, married Frank P. Kendall, and Alice, the youngest daughter, lives at home.









ATHOL  
PAST  
AND  
PRESENT  
—  
CASWELL

ILLUSTRATED

ATHOL

